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THIS ISSUE CONTAINS A MULTI-COLOUR

CALENDAR ON PAGE 412-413

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

1992—A Crucial Year

Dear Reader,

In these eventful and memorable times there is hardly any year that is not characterised by unforgettable developments in various arenas of human activity. But there are several indications that 1992 will be out of the ordinary and might mark another milestone in India's social, economic and political history. Things are moving with a baffling rapidity; in fact, thoughtful citizens as well as those who watch the run of the play from the sidelines without involving themselves in any partisan activity have begun to wonder what the country is heading for.

The overall scenario is highly disturbing. The road ahead is strewn with numerous pitfalls. The irony, from the standpoint of national welfare is that tensions, mistrust and lawlessness are increasing in almost every region.

What can career conscious young men and women do in such a tension-ridden atmosphere? They must not remain helpless observers. They can play a constructive role by tactfully discouraging unethical activity wherever they can. Patient persuasion can often achieve what noisy intervention can not.

With all good wishes for a Happy New Year,

Yours sincerely,

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READERS' FORUM

RESERVATIONS : A NEW TWIST

Your Cover Story "Reservations : A New Twist" ("CM" Dec 91 issue) is well conceived and rationally presented. Social justice demands that reservations should be made for religious minorities also in view of their economic and general backwardness. Some of the minorities are so economically and educationally backward that despite having reservations in general, they may not be fully represented in various fields. For instance, Muslims are the largest minority of this country (12 per cent of the population) but they have only 3 per cent representation in government jobs. This is not justifiable.

In this connection, necessary provision may be made to ensure that people from well-off families do not get the benefit of reservations even if they have the requisite certificate of belonging to a Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe or any other backward community. Moreover, unfilled vacancies should be filled by that particular community only.

Shahjahanpur Mohd Khalid Khan

Your Cover feature "Reservations : The New Twist" is incisive and thought provoking. It is quite true to say that the upper caste people have for long dominated all Government, public sector and private sector services. The other backward classes who constitute 52 per cent of the Indian population have got merely 13 per cent representation in the services. More than 80 per cent of the OBCs live below the poverty line.

Our Constitution lays much emphasis on bringing the deprived lot into the mainstream through reservation of jobs. The reservations for SC/STs have proved fruitful, though not to the desired extent. The reservation for OBCs is well within the framework of our Constitution. There is no denial of opportunity unless the person who complains of discrimination is as well qualified as the persons who are stated to have been favoured.

Reservations for SC/ST/BC should be provided only for those who are really downtrodden, and for a specific period. The OBCs among the Muslim community should also be provided this facility without considerations of religion.

Bihar Sharat Mohd Naushad

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social justice is an old and apt concept. Since the time of its inclusion in

the Constitution, it has been sadly neglected. The really needy have been denied their due. To improve the condition of the down-trodden, the Government off and on granted some funds and issued directives. Surprisingly, the directives proved fruitless and the funds were pocketed by the middlemen and hawking sections. The deprived and vulnerable sections remain almost in the same place where they were.

With the passage of time, the number of socially backward has increased and their demands moved the Government and compelled it to do something for their uplift. So the reservation policy was adopted. This programme, designed to promote social justice, will remain a mere eyewash until the monitors concerned keep themselves away from corruption and manipulation.

Hogly Sanjoy Chanda

In my opinion, our Ministers and other leaders, have a bag which is full of flowers scented with casteism, communalism and favoritism. And on the outer side of the bag is written in golden letters 'SOCIAL JUSTICE'.

Begusarai Om Prakash Anutha

RHETORIC AND REALITY

Your editorial "Rhetoric and Reality" reflects the insincerity of Government in implementing resolutions passed by the National Integration Council. There is no point in convening NIC session and seeking consensus on burning national issues if the resolutions are not implemented effectively. Much harm has already been done in Punjab and Kashmir because of the escalating terrorism and yet nobody bothered to give due attention to these national issues which should have been given top priority.

An atmosphere of cooperation and mutual understanding should be created for amicable solution of these problems. Our leaders should avoid criticising each other and work together to resolve the issues facing the nation. Further, it is the responsibility of the Government to implement the Council resolutions.

Bombay Anjali M. Andrades

It is unfortunate that the National Integration Council picked up only the Ayodhya issue when the country is confronted with so many grave problems. In Punjab and Kashmir secessionism is posing a threat to unity and integrity. If the Council is sincere in dealing with our burning problems, it should cover all mind-boggling aspects of the situation.

The dangers of majority communalism call for a fresh approach. Unfortunately, the communalists have gained a measure of respectability because of the willingness shown by mainstream political parties to col-

laborate with them. Therefore, any biased appeal with a view to breaking up the country should be rejected outright. This is possible only if the people, irrespective of their political, religious and caste affiliations, rise as one man against the monster of communalism.

Nalanda Arun Kumar

After the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact the relevance of NAM and role of the U.N. have naturally become questionable. The U.S. is now left as the only Super Power. Till now, the UN existed as a compromising organisation between the world powers, and non-alignment as a movement kept some countries away from the rival blocs. But when one of the Super Powers had already surrendered its authority, there is no question of any rivalry or of any compromise. A notable feature of the post-Cold War world is that everybody is in quest of peace and is supporting peace processes. The Middle East Conference is another step towards peace. When everybody is in need of peace, the responsibility of the UN and of NAM has decreased. The future of the UN is becoming brighter and NAM as a movement will exist and its ideology will ever remain relevant.

Puri Swayampraya Senapati

SATELLITE TV REVOLUTION

In your special feature (December issue) you have overemphasised the threat of cable TV to Doordarshan. We have the example of AIR. A wide variety of programmes are available to us from foreign broadcasting agencies. Most of these agencies are broadcasting special regional language programmes for India. But have they materially affected the popularity of AIR programmes?

I am also doubtful about the popularity of satellite TV programmes in our country. The people like to see programmes which are in tune with their culture. The popularity of Doordarshan serials depicting Indian past and ethics reinforces this argument.

Varanasi Ranjan Tiwari

The feature 'Turning Failure into Success' (Nov '91 issue) was impressive and very educative. I learnt a lot from it.

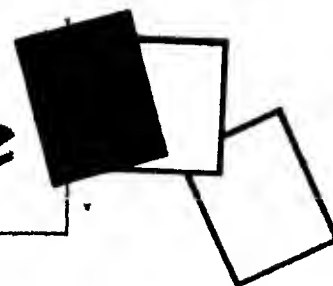
Self-confidence, honest performance and regular duty are the keys to success. A strong will power is another way to succeed in life. Frankness and bright thinking help in achieving the aims. Many personalities in the world at present and in the past achieved their goal by these successful techniques.

Lakhisarai Syed Naiyer Eqbal

I and many others would like to thank you for the Personality Development feature. The feature on 'Turning Failure into Success' was enough to boost the morale of a friend who

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couldn't secure the expected margin in an entrance examination. Many readers of the "CM" must have benefited from this article. The description of "CM" as a "Total awareness magazine" is perfectly true.

Pilani

Vijay Lakshmi

WEST ASIA AND INDO-PAK TIES

The West Asian peace talks should be an eye-opener for both India and Pakistan in resolving major issues like Kashmir, terrorism, etc. through mutual understanding. There should be scope for a give-and-take policy, rather than adopting rigid stands. We could also utilise the good offices of the big powers for this purpose. The politicians of both countries should realise the difficulties of the people who are the major sufferers. Let the intellectual class, particularly the student community, undertake the task of making the politicians realize the grave dangers of leaving these problems unsolved.

Athgarh

Sudhansu Sekhar Mishra

I have been a regular reader of the "Competition Master"—the top calibre competition magazine—for the past 20 years. I get in the "C.M." what I cannot get elsewhere. I have passed many written examinations with its help. May this magazine remain for ever the torch-bearer to knowledge-hungry students and their friend, philosopher and guide!

Manali

R.K. Sood

In the "Economic Scene" (Nov 1991 issue) you have given very important information on BOP, foreign aid inflows and PDS. These topics are very important for almost all competitive examinations.

Hyderabad

B. Raghu Ram Reddy

You will be glad to know that I have been selected for the Bihar Finance Service by the B.P.S.C., Patna. I have been reading the Competition Master for the past five years. Yours is a complete magazine for G.K. and provides all-round information.

Ranchi

Bray Nandan Thakur

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Berhampur

Rameshwar Choudury

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- Increased my reading speed from 72 words to as fast as 1000 words per minute.
- Earned \$50 (Rs 1200) per hour in USA. I left USA, and returned to India to write this book and share my expertise in Mind Power Study Techniques.
- Own a computer company in India which earned from USA, \$14,000 (or Rs 3.2 lakhs) in 1991.
- Spent \$1300 (about Rs 30,000) on two seminars in USA to learn a new science of success programming called NLP. Was a member of the Society for Accelerated Learning & Teaching, USA.
- B.E. from BITS Pilani. M.Tech from IIT Kharagpur. Prestigious NTS scholar. Rank 5 in High School Raj board (95% in Physics, Math, Chemistry).
- Learnt TM of Mahesh Yogi, No-mind meditation of Osho, Hi-tech meditation of Brother Charles, Computer meditation.



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A State of Desperation

IF there is any leader of world status who is currently in a state of utter desperation because of grave threats to the unity and integrity of his country, it is Mr Mikhail Gorbachov. For him the bells have begun to toll. And if there is any large country which is facing disaster and where the situation has lately been getting from bad to worse, it is the Soviet Union. The dismal developments in recent months have been capped, from Moscow's standpoint, by the referendum verdict of Ukraine—the largest entity in Europe—to become an independent country and snap its decades old ties with Moscow. The verdict, though not unexpected, in effect shatters Mr Gorbachov's dream of having a united nation and remaining its top leader.

On December 4 Mr Gorbachov made a desperate plea to his countrymen to stay together in a Union and avoid secessionist drives that will lead to "clashes, even wars". His plea amounted to an urgent attempt to save some form of a Union and what little remains of his authority. The immediate provocation was the prompt recognition of Ukrainian independence by Russia and several other governments. The woes listed by Mr Gorbachov—if it disintegrated further—ranged from bloodshed and economic collapse to tardy development in science, technology and culture. "Things are going from bad to worse, he said in a statement circulated to all the 12 republics, not just those seven who have expressed willingness to sign the treaty.

The union treaty proposed by Mr Gorbachov is intended to hold the union together in a loose confederation. According to him, the break-up of such a multi-ethnic country will bring misfortunes upon millions of people which will outbalance all possible temporary benefits from secession. It needs to be noted that Ukraine's newly elected President has vowed not to sign the union treaty. To make matters even more disconcerting, Mr Boris Yeltsin, the Russian Federation President, clarified in an interview that if Ukraine does not sign the treaty, his republic won't sign either. The

stark reality is that Ukraine's departure will remove the second strongest pillar proping up the tottering Soviet economy and effectively ruin Mr Gorbachov's plan to hold the once monolithic union together in a viable confederation. There is also the warning given by the Soviet Foreign Minister Mr Eduard Shevardnadze who cautioned that the complex situation in the Soviet Union would deteriorate rapidly if the new federal treaty is not signed.

The declaration of independence by Ukraine is bad enough from the Kremlin viewpoint. It would be worse if, as is very likely, it provides an impetus to secessionist movements in other Soviet republics. The fact is that once such a process of breaking away from the centre starts, one never knows where it will end. Groups and nations, especially the fiery disgruntled elements, often find scapegoats for their unhappy condition and for the host of problems they have to face. Inevitably, they blame the existing set-up and the leaders in power. They yearn for a change in the hope that their plight would somehow be redressed. The impact of Ukraine's exit on Mr Gorbachov's future will become increasingly evident as the days pass, and it is not going to be wholesome. India stands to suffer in many ways if Mr Gorbachov is reduced to a non-entity and if the Soviet Union breaks up.

Ukraine has for long been the Soviet Union's bread basket. It produces one-third of the former USSR's foodgrains; it accounts for about one-fourth the total industrial output. But these features are relatively less important than the military and nuclear aspect. The republic has major military bases on its territory; what is more, about 4,000 nuclear devices are located in this republic. This fact is believed to have spread panic in many parts of the world. Since Ukraine possesses nuclear weapons which most other republics do not have, it might pose a threat to peace-loving countries. The nuclear issue adds a new and disconcerting dimension to the worrisome situation.

Focus on West Asian Tangle

Despite the prolonged efforts of the US, backed perhaps inevitably by the Soviet Union, there seems to be no end to the icy hostility between the Arabs and the Israelis. There is a frustrating stalemate at present. Hopes of a partial settlement on a provisional basis were in evidence at the historic Madrid talks held at the end of October. However, neither party budged from its stand.

The major issues that have to be resolved are: one, return of Israeli-occupied territory to Arab States; two, establishment of an independent Palestine State; three, Arab recognition to Israel; and, four, an agreement to ensure lasting peace and stability in the region.

"Peace in the Middle East need not be a dream", said US President George Bush while opening the first broad West Asia peace conference in a generation. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev forcefully seconded Mr Bush's call for a "real peace" in the troubled region. By their presence the two leaders lent prestige to the conference. But lasting peace is proving elusive. Will it remain a mere dream?

This feature is a comprehensive study of the problem.

I. The Background

FOR over four decades West Asia has been one of the world's major trouble-spots. The traditional hostility between the Arabs and the Israelis may not end for quite some time, mainly because of the rigid stand taken by Israel which refuses to vacate the territory it occupied in the 1967 war. This area, the Israelis contend, is vital to their security. The Arabs, on their part, assert—and rightly—that the occupied areas, Golan Heights, West Jordan and the Gaza strip, must be returned to them. Israel has been the aggressor; how can it be permitted to retain the areas which do not belong to it? The fruits of blatant aggression must not be retained or legalised. On the eve of the historic West Asia Peace Con-

ference held at Madrid on October 30-31, 1991, the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, stated that Israel had no intention of giving up land as part of a peace agreement with the Arabs.

Asked whether the Golan Heights would in any circumstances become negotiable, Mr Shamir said: "When we sit down with the Syrians, they are entitled to raise any questions, but I don't see any possibility.....that we can give up this tiny piece of land that is essential to our defence."

The West Asian imbroglio is actually multi-faceted. There are several parties involved and there are many issues to be resolved. Apart from the question of vacating the seized territory, there is the defiant attitude of the Israeli leaders who refuse to negotiate, directly or indirectly, with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Chairman Yasser Arafat, though it may accept Palestinian representatives from other areas as its genuine representatives.

II. Palestine Problem

PALESTINE covers a historically important region of the Middle East that includes the modern State of Israel and part of western Jordan. Since the region was split up between these two countries in 1948, the traditional name Palestine is not officially used. The boundaries of Palestine have changed several times over the centuries, but it has always included areas between the Mediterranean Sea and Egypt on the west, Lebanon and Syria in the north, Jordan on the east and Red Sea on the South.

The region is often called the 'holy land', sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims. Because of its strategic location on routes between Europe, Asia and Africa, this territory has been the victim of invasion by out-

siders since ancient times. Between World War I and 1948, Palestine was governed by the British under a mandate from the League of Nations. The best known cities of Palestine are the sacred city of Jerusalem, and the largest one, Tel-Aviv, now in Israel.

The Zionist movement for the establishment of a national Jewish homeland in Palestine began in the 1890s. In 1917 the Zionist movement was recognised by the British through the Balfour Declaration. In the subsequent period the Jewish population increased steadily through immigration. The Zionist movement however was contradictory to the principles of Arabs who wanted an Arab State in Palestine.

After the 1967 war several Palestinian nationalist groups emerged, including the Palestine Liberation Movement known as Al-Fatah and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The Palestinian adopted terrorist tactics, including highjacking, assassinations and commando raids, thus focussing world attention on their demands for abolition of Israel and resettlement of Palestinians in their homeland.

In 1974 the UN affirmed the right of Palestinians to self-determination. But clashes between the Palestinians and the Israelis continued into the late 1970s. The Egypt-Israel Treaty of 1979 called for withdrawal of Israelis from the Sinai, recognition of Israel and negotiations to settle the Palestinians was strongly opposed by other Arab countries.

III. Mere Interlude?

IT would appear that Madrid was only another interlude in West Asian history which is a long stretch of deep-rooted prejudice and ephemeral peace plans, beginning with the birth of the Jewish State itself.

In November, 1947, when the UN

proposed Jewish and Arab States side by side, with Jerusalem as an international city, the Palestinians and Arabs rejected the plan outright. When Israel was proclaimed in May 1948, following the expiry of the British mandate, the Arabs invaded the new entity but in vain. Then onwards it was a long story of invasion, land occupation, and abortive attempts at peace.

The year 1967 offered perhaps one of the most tragic moments as well as an ideal opportunity. The Arabs fought one of the most self-destructive, mistimed war with Israel, losing land and lives.

Following Israel's victory over Jordan, Syria and Egypt, the UN Security Council passed the historic Resolution 242 which emphasised the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a lasting peace in which every State can live in security. It called for, among other things, the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories of Golan Heights, West Bank and Gaza strip.

Resolution 338 only re-affirmed Resolution 242 and called for its immediate implementation. This still remains as a guideline for the peace talks. But Israel has always been lukewarm to it, while the PLO, in response to the famous initiative of the then Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, confirmed its acceptance of Israel's right to exist as envisaged in Resolution 242.

The first international peace conference held in Geneva in the aftermath of the 1973 war was doomed to fail from the very beginning. Sponsored, like the Madrid session, by the U.S. and the Soviet Union, Egypt and Jordan came there on the condition that they would not negotiate directly with Israel. Syria didn't come at all.

After the ceremonial opening, the conference was adjourned for the Israeli election, which was delayed by war, never to meet again. The only breakthrough was the Camp David accord in 1979 when the then US President, Mr Jimmy Carter, Mr Anwar Sadat and Mr Menachem Begin of Israel agreed on an Israel-

Egypt peace treaty culminating in Israel returning the Sinai peninsula which it had captured in 1967. But the clause in the treaty relating to Palestinian autonomy came to nothing.

Many Arab politicians have used the enduring problem of Palestine for their own political ends—from Nasser to Saddam. But that doesn't alter the fact that Arabs have reason and legitimacy on their side. The basic questions the conference has to face are about Palestinian self-determination, a Palestinian homeland, recovery of West Bank and Gaza, Arab recognition of Israel, and the status of Jerusalem. Israel too has a right to security.

Since the Madrid conference was an American creation for all practical purposes, the U.S. undoubtedly did its best. But Mr Shamir showed no signs of compromise. However, he has to reckon with the fact that none of his western friends are willing to endorse Israeli terms any more. Mr Arafat was not there but it was the PLO by proxy with which the hardline Israeli delegation led by Mr Shamir had to deal.

Perhaps Mr Shamir should accept what Israel's celebrated novelist Amos Oz wrote three years ago. "The Palestinians are not our dark-skinned citizens suffering from discrimination. They are a neighbouring nation, a defeated and conquered enemy. The name of the game is not equalising or integrating Palestinians and Israelis. The name of the game is a two-State solution." To make that game a fair one, the Madrid sponsors, the US and the Soviet Union were alert referees, never fearing to show displeasure whenever the rules are violated.

Of the two giants, it is the U.S. that is playing the dominant role. Apparently, Mr Bush wishes to complement the impressive U.S. triumph in the Gulf war with a significant breakthrough for peace in West Asia. He is indeed setting the pace for the process and wielding the whip.

The Soviet presence is notable more for its symbolic value than the influence the truncated and distinctly weakened and battered power can

exercise. It was Mr Gorbachov's first venture in global diplomacy after the abortive August coup in Moscow. Recently, after a 24-year break, Moscow re-established diplomatic relations with Israel.

Mr Shamir appealed to the Arabs to end decades of hostility to recognise the Jewish State and what he called its historic right to Jerusalem. "Let the people in our region hear you speak in the language of reconciliation co-existence and peace with Israel", Mr Shamir said. Challenging the Arabs to drop their resistance to holding negotiations in West Asia, he said: "We invite our partners to this process to come to Israel for the first round to talks. On our part, we are ready to go to Jordan, to Lebanon and to Syria for the same purpose."

Arab recognition of Israel, he said, was a more important goal than trading land for peace as advocated by the Arab delegations. The issue was not territory but our existence, the Israeli Prime Minister said.

"We come to this process with an open heart, sincere intentions and great expectations", Mr Shamir said, "We are committed to negotiating without interruption until an agreement was reached." "There will be problems, obstacles, crises and conflicting claims, but it is better to talk than to shed blood."

IV. Israel and Syria Face to Face

ISRAEL and Syria had their first face-to-face and prolonged talks at Madrid, each side accusing the other of intransigence but saying that more meetings were likely. The five-hour session, the first in the history of the 43-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict, disclosed an enormous gap between the views of the parties.

Israeli officials expressed much frustration after the meeting, complaining that the Syrians had rejected all their suggestions and insisted on a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights. On the other hand, Syria's chief negotiator complained that Israel refused to budge on the territorial issue and described the meeting as a waste of time. "Although we are not at all satisfied, we

will continue talking with them", he said, adding that no time or place had been fixed for the next round.

The Israelis had expected a tough Syrian posture. The Israeli negotiator stressed however that despite the failure of the session, it was a breakthrough simply because the parties had met for the first time to talk peace without the presence of mediators. "We have to register this fact with some satisfaction." But this whole meeting to a large extent, "is a cause for much frustration on our part because we raised a host of issues for the purpose of beginning a process of negotiations towards accommodation, understanding, trust, confidence and peace." There were no handshakes, no smiles before, during or after the talks. He gave no indication that the progress made in the talks (held a few hours earlier than the session with the Syrians) with Lebanon and Jordanian-Palestinian delegation would be jeopardised. The Israelis complained that the Syrians kept referring again and again only to withdrawal from territories. "Before you withdraw from Golan Heights we cannot discuss anything", the Syrians repeatedly said.

Israel and Lebanon: The West Asian republic of Lebanon occupies a strip of land along the Mediterranean Coast between Syria and Israel. The country has been reduced to ruins by the tussles between the Super Powers (until the end of the Cold War), together with the internal wranglings between the Maronite Christians and Muslims. Moreover, Israel continued to raid Lebanon every now and then to counter the tactics of its enemies—the Arabs, the Syrians and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerillas. The defeat of France in World War II sealed its fate in Lebanon which it had dominated for some time, and in Syria both of which were then occupied by the British. The Lebanese National Pact provided the basis for Lebanon's independence from France in 1943. Several political changes followed in quick succession. Palestinian commandos infiltrated into Lebanon from Syria after the 1967 war. The

Israeli raids were in response to Palestinian operations which led to much upheaval.

After the 1970-71 civil war in Jordan, PLO transferred its headquarters to Lebanon. Israeli raids continued; in a major commando raid in 1973 in the heart of Beirut several top Palestinian leaders were assassinated. Tension between the Lebanese army and the Palestinians erupted into a civil war. In the subsequent months there were appalling savagery and widespread clashes. Since the presence of a large number of Syrians in many areas of Lebanon was intolerable to the Israelis, Israel invaded the country in 1978. The UN called upon Israel to withdraw from Lebanon, but the Israelis flagrantly violated the UN resolution and still occupy a pocket in Lebanon. The multinational peace keeping force posted there suffered heavily in their task and also in their status.

Syria controls two-thirds of Lebanon while Israel holds Syria's Golan Heights. Syria apparently sees an advantage in remaining in Lebanon, being the only Arab country engaged in eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation with Israel.

V. Bush's Compromise Plan

AT Madrid President Bush called for an agreement on limited Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank and in Gaza within a year. He laid out a time-table for an Israeli-Palestinian settlement, urging a completion of terms for limited self-rule. This set-up, which would allow the Palestinians more authority over their day-to-day lives than they have under Israeli occupation, would go on for five years. But in the third year the two sides should begin negotiations for a permanent arrangement.

He stressed the need to bolster mutual trust by making even "territorial compromises". Obviously, mutual trust can be achieved when Israel halts new settlements of Soviet immigrants on the West Bank, Gaza strip and the Golan Heights. In return, stray attacks by Palestinians on Israelis would stop, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the four-year old Intifada movement.

"Success will escape us if we focus on what is given up", Mr Bush cautioned in a message to the two sides that have been unwilling to give much ground. Mr Bush trying to coax Israel and the Palestinians into a limited accord, said what they worked out would not be binding in the search for an overall settlement. "These subsequent negotiations will be determined on their own merit", he said.

Mr Bush reiterated the U.S. offer to provide guarantees, as well as technical and financial help to ease the way for the parties towards a peace settlement. He also urged Arabs and Israelis to take measures that would "bolster mutual trust", an apparent reference to U.S. suggestions that Israel freeze its settlements in the occupied territories in return for a Palestinian pledge to stop acts of terrorism against Israel.

Speaking of peace rather than merely a cessation of the state of war, a durable peace implies the implementation of and respect for the rights of the Palestinian people", Mr Gorbachov said. He did not mention any specific Palestinian demands for sovereignty or a homeland. The Soviet Union would use its newly re-established diplomatic ties with Israel to "benefit the peoples of our two countries and the entire Arab world".

The Soviet President, who won the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in ending the Cold War, said that rapprochement with the US had set the stage for ending regional conflicts in West Asia, Asia, Africa and Afghanistan. It was our country that launched the initiative to end confrontation and to join up with the rest of the world", he added.

"It was the will of history; without an improvement, and then a radical change in Soviet-U.S. relations, we would never have witnessed the profound qualitative changes in the world that now make it possible to speak in terms of an entirely new age, an age of peace in world history", he said.

VI. Arabs' Formula

THE eight Arab countries which were allied with the USA against Iraq in the Gulf war proposed a set of sweeping defence and economic ar-

rangements for post-war West Asia. These proposals provide for continued US naval and air support "over the horizon" and for stressing self-determination for the Palestinians leading to the creation of a Palestinian State. But they made no mention of the PLO. An Egyptian official even said: "Yasser Arafat is finished." Observers hold the view that by aligning himself openly with President Saddam Hussein of Iraq during the Gulf War, Mr Yasser Arafat ruined his future. As a result of the decision of Arafat and the PLO to remain on Iraq's side, the PLO's sources of income (contributions from the Arab nations) dried up since the war.

Israel demanded that the Palestinian delegation should not have any Palestinian with PLO links or anyone from East Jerusalem (which was annexed by Israel in 1967). It would however permit the inclusion of Palestinians from Jordan in the Jordan-Palestinian team. This demand was obviously designed to decimate the PLO, and the latter was naturally shocked at it. It is well known that the PLO has been fighting for the cause of a Palestinian homeland for about four decades. It is recognised almost all over the world as the only authentic organisation representing the Palestinians. India is among the countries that treat Mr Yasser Arafat like a head of State.

It would have looked strange if the PLO had been left out of any international peace conference expected to discuss the establishment of a Palestine State among other matters. As Mr Arafat said recently, there can be no durable peace in West Asia without the PLO's close association with the process.

The talks are delicate. Both parties are sensitive; so the negotiations may last for months, and even for years.

It is the plan for territorial adjustments and compromises that has caused deep concern among both parties. Israel fears sustained U.S. pressure to compel it to eventually vacate the two pockets of Palestinian land. This is applicable to the Golan Heights area also. Mr Shamir has

pointed out that even a programme for removal of the Jewish settlements will require 34 billion dollars to resettle the residents elsewhere. The Syrians suspect that Mr Bush wants them to accept only partial sovereignty over the Golan Heights. In the name of security under that plan, Israel would maintain control over the area. The US accepts this interpretation of the provision.

The Palestinians fear that they may be asked to give up claims to east Jerusalem as a part of the compromise since they have no territory to give up.

Well-informed people are of the view that Mr Bush is in reality skirting a vital issue of 'land for peace', that is, Israel giving up the land occupied during the 1967 war in exchange of Arabs guaranteeing the security of Israeli borders. It is, however, doubtful whether this formula would be acceptable to the Arabs and the Palestinians.

VII. Madrid Achievements

MOST people around the world have described the Madrid conference as fruitless and even a waste of time. But credit must be given where it is due. The eminently patient and repeatedly extended shuttle diplomacy in which Mr James Baker, US Secretary of State, indulged did not go waste. By bringing pressure in devious ways and on both Israelis and their rivals, the Arabs, comprising various groups, he did accomplish his aim of arranging a peace conference on West Asia. The fact that such a conference was indeed held and that both Israelis and the Arabs attended it is in itself regarded by experts on West Asian affairs as an achievement. The fact that both parties agreed to hold face-to-face talks in Washington—as the second phase of the Madrid conference—is another creditable feature. For many weeks the Arabs and the Israelis could not agree on a venue; ultimately, as Dr Ghali of Egypt indicated, Washington was chosen as the venue by mutual agreement. Mr Shamir's plea for talks alternately in Israel and some Arab town was found unacceptable be-

cause of its implication—Arab recognition of Israel..

The Arabs joined the Madrid talks demanding the return of the areas seized by Israel in the 1967 war and also during the earlier wars since 1948. Israel demanded the peace that has eluded it since its establishment. The third party to the talks, the Palestinians, sought to fulfil a centuries-old dream of a State of their own. None of these hopes were fulfilled, though expectations were raised of a gradual, phased settlement despite the apparently inflexible postures of the various parties.

It is significant that while Mr James Baker tried to persuade the rivals to send their Foreign Ministers to the conference, the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Shamir, himself led his country's delegation. He was the only head of government to attend the conference which conference was formally inaugurated by President Bush and President Gorbachov. The parties concerned delivered their set speeches. But there were angry exchanges between the Arabs and the Israelis; each accusing the other of unethical conduct, deception and worse. Perhaps both President Bush and his Moscow counterpart had some basis for their optimism—"real peace, shared victory and territorial compromises".

Washington Round: After three weeks of disagreement between the parties over the location for further meetings came the announcement that the peace talks would resume in Washington. A U.S. State Department spokesman said it was important to get back to the bargaining table anyhow. The Israeli Prime Minister made a last-ditch effort in a meeting with the US President to have the talks shifted to West Asia. In a gesture to the Israeli leader the US authorities said there was no reason to exclude holding negotiations in that area at a later stage.

Lebanon's Foreign Minister has predicted lengthy talks. He believes the conference would not be able to achieve major progress in a few days, weeks or months. "All the negotiators carry with them hundreds of years of conflicts."

Small-scale Industries: Growth, Problems and Prospects

'Industrialise India'. That has been the policy of Free India over the years, but a sea change has been made only during the last few months in the industrial policy. What is the future of the small-scale industrial sector? This feature examines the question in some depth.

I. Introduction

IN an under-developed country like India, which is labour surplus but capital deficient, the role of the small-scale industries cannot be over-emphasized. Before embarking on a discussion on their growth, problems and prospects of development, a distinction may well be made between the village and cottage industries and the modern small-scale industries.

II. What is SSI?

THE village and cottage industries are mostly rural-based. They use locally available raw materials and skills and traditional methods of production using mostly family labour.

The modern small-scale industries have been defined as those with investment in plant and machinery worth upto Rs 7.5 lakh. This pre-1975 investment limit was raised to Rs 20 lakh in 1980, Rs 25 lakh in 1985 and Rs 60 lakh in April 1991. In the case of ancillary industries, the investment was Rs 10 lakh before 1975; it was increased to Rs 25 lakh in 1980, Rs 45 lakh in 1985 and Rs 75 lakh in 1991. The industries with an investment of Rs 2 lakh in plant and machinery are categorised as 'tiny' industries. This limit has been raised to Rs 5 lakh in 1991.

While the enhancement in the investment limit for the various categories of industries may be justifiable in view of the inflationary prices of plant and machinery, it seems unreasonable when 95 per cent

of the units have less than Rs 5 lakh investment which is prescribed for the tiny sector. If the investment in land, building, utilities, equipment for office and transport etc is added to the present investment limit, the aggregate investment of a tiny unit would mount to around Rs 3 crore (!) entitling it to be categorised as a small-scale industry, and to avail of the SSI concessions. Even so, the relatively larger units in the SSI clamour for raising the investment limit periodically. Lest they should lose the concessions given by the government to the SSI, the small units refuse to grow and develop into large- or medium-scale industries.

III. Growth

THE modern small-scale industrial sector has registered phenomenal growth during the post-independence period. During the period of one and a half decade, 1974-75 to 1988-89, the number of small-scale units increased more than 3-fold from about 5 lakh to over 17 lakh; the value of output at current prices increased more than 14 times from Rs 9.2 crore to Rs 131.4 crore; investment rose barely 7 times from Rs 2.7 crore to Rs 18.2 crore; and the employment was up about 300 per cent from 40.5 lakh to 118.5 lakh persons.

The growth in production has not only been in volume but also in the variety of goods produced such as ready-made garments, leather and leather goods, wooden and steel furniture, electrical and electronic appliances etc. About 35 to 38 per cent of the country's industrial output and about 40 per cent of exports are accounted for by the SSI sector.

A notable fact is the elaborate institutional structure that has come up over the years with the avowed objective of promoting the small scale

units. Unfortunately, they work at cross purposes rather than as complements to each other.

IV. Problems

THE small-scale industrial sector is beset with numerous chronic problems such as financial, organisational, input supply, legal, product marketing etc. Let us now take up some of the problems.

(1) **Financial inadequacy:** Notwithstanding the various measures taken by the government to provide adequate and timely credit to the small-scale units, they continue to suffer from inadequacy of working capital. Case studies have revealed that the working capital sanctioned initially is even less than 20 per cent of the actual requirement. This under-assessment of the unit's requirement leads to industrial sickness. The problem of sickness is not tackled in the incipient stage but only when it aggravates.

(2) **Organisational flux:** The organisational set-up seemingly presents an impressive array of elaborate measures for taking care of the various aspects of development of the small units. But the proliferation of the institutions has made coordination among them very difficult. Secondly, they are not managed by professionals as the appointments to the top positions and at the lower levels in the corporations are, by and large, the result of political decisions and are not made on merits. Inefficient and corrupt management is the end-result.

(3) **Industrial sickness:** A major cause for concern in the growth and development of the small-scale industries is the phenomenon of sick industries.

(a) **Sick units:** According to the latest data available, there were more

than 2.5 lakh sick units in June 1989 as against less than one lakh in June 1985. The bank credit locked up in these units was Rs 2,200 crore and Rs 788 crore, respectively. Out of the sick units only about 15,000 or 6 per cent have been identified in 1989 as potentially viable. In other words, as many as 94 per cent of the sick units are non-viable which should be a matter of grave concern, indeed.

Worse, even non-sick industrial units are having a hand-to-mouth existence. Thus, "the overall health condition of the SSI sector is appalling".

(b) *Causes of sickness:* The causes of industrial sickness may be classified into two categories: (i) *External factors:* These are non-availability of inputs like power, raw materials under the quota system, government policies affecting adversely the small units, recession in the market etc. These factors are neither under the control of the banks nor of the entrepreneur. (ii) *Internal factors:* As stated before, the stringency of funds, particularly the working capital, is responsible for the industrial sickness.

The slipshod planning about the SSI unit by the entrepreneur is also to blame for it. He embarks upon the project without making a proper estimate of the project cost, the working capital required and the demand for the product. Lack of appreciation and willingness to approach the various problems in a determined way on the part of the entrepreneur also account for the sick units. These factors can be brought within control by suitable measures.

(c) *Correctives:* Having stated some of the major causes of sickness of industries, we may now consider how the small industrial sector can be rehabilitated to sound health.

Prevention-is-better-than-cure approach need to be adopted if the new SSI units are not to add to the gravity of the existing situation of large-scale sickness. Since the banks have to sanction funds before the units come into existence, the proposal for the loan must be properly scrutinized and necessary safeguards provided against the anticipated problems.

It may be emphasised that the lending bank must select carefully the entrepreneur for he/she is more important than the viability of the project. The assessment and projections of an inexperienced entrepreneur cannot be taken at the face value but thoroughly scrutinized by the bank concerned.

The government's fiscal and other policies should be reviewed and if necessary revised in such a way that they do not affect adversely the growth and development of the small units.

(4) **Legal hurdles:** The complex rules and regulations have often resulted in avoidable delays in sanctioning the SSI units and in solving their problems. The laws relating to labour, excise duty and various other areas have been the irritants to the entrepreneurs. In the new industrial policy liberalisation is the key word and hopefully the entrepreneurs in the small units will heave a sigh of relief with the abrogation of the legal complexities.

(5) **Technology:** Inadequate technical support to the entrepreneur in respect of product identification and machinery installation has been a crucial problem resulting in delay in the modernisation of industries as well as slow growth.

(6) **Product marketing:** The small units suffer from a number of marketing problems despite the existence of various marketing organisations to render them the needed help.

(7) **Infra-structure:** The infrastructure facilities in the industrial estates are far from satisfactory. Many small units have suffered from delays in the provision of infra-structure facilities like sheds, water, pumps etc.

(8) **Raw material supply:** The growth and development of small units is hampered by the non-availability of raw materials. Also, the poor quality of products of these units is attributable to the low quality raw materials and the use of unmodern technology.

The small industry units are required to pay in cash for the raw

materials and sell the finished goods on credit for a period extending over three to four months. Recently, the government has asked the large industries to pay off the bills without delay.

The host of problems are not intended to suggest that the government has not taken any steps towards their solution. The government has actually adopted a number of well-meaning policies in this regard. These include reservation of 860 items for manufacture exclusively by the small scale industrial sector, supply of raw materials by the State industries development corporations, provision of concessional finance, marketing assistance and development of industrial estates.

V. Prospects

WHAT is the future of the small scale industrial sector? Notwithstanding the spectacular advances made by the large-scale industries, the SSIs sector has made considerable headway and a bright future awaits it during the nineties. The large and medium scale industries have been allowed 24 per cent equity participation in the SSIs. This will put an end to benami transactions in vogue and also ease the financial paucity which has so far bedevilled the small units.

The new SSI policy provides a boost to entrepreneurship development through training facilities and hence to the growth of the small scale industries. The policy lists measure for the entrepreneurship development programmes.

The open door policy for industry and trade recently promulgated will widen the industrial horizons. With the wider exposure and competition, the small scale industrial units will improve efficiency, produce more and better goods keeping, at the same time, costs at low levels.

The new SSI policy promises to remove most of the irritants which discouraged entrepreneurs to run into new ventures. The liberalisation policy aims at dismantling the regulatory regime and creates a friendly environment for the entrepreneurs.

Problems before Human Civilization

"Civilizations, like empires have an existence of their own, they grow, they reach maturity and then they begin to decline."

—Ibn Khaldoun.

HUMAN civilization, from its rudimentary stage to the present sophisticated one, has never been free of problems and pressures. It hardly matters now whether the problems were the result of human acts of commission or omission or they were the expression of nature's wrath. The challenges that appeared before each civilization, like ghosts from the graves, were daunting and daring enough to suck and sap its energy which otherwise would have been used to usher in the much needed eras of universal peace and prosperity.

No doubt, human ingenuity knows no bounds and if it destroys or disfigures its own creations, it can also devise deft devices to repair the loss and make good the short-fall. Death and destruction, disease and disability, hunger and starvation, ignorance and illiteracy, poverty and oppression; all these negative phenomena have co-existed with love and life, plenty and pleasure, research and scholarship, care and compassion, but till now civilization never faced the threat of near eclipse or awesome aberrations as it does today and the causes of this nightmarish situation are not far to seek.

The present crisis is essentially that of excess. We have too much of many things—too many people, too much of science research, more technology than we need, far more lethal power than is good for us. The notion that there is a crisis of the human environment is only partly true. It

would be truer to say that there is a crisis of over-technology. Had we kept technology within limits, there would have been no pollution worth worrying about. Conservationists confess they are fighting a losing battle and that much of humanity's rich heritage is disintegrating before their very eyes because of wars, vandalism, tourism and industrial pollution.

The global climatic change is one of the most challenging ecological problems that we face because its solution is closely interwoven with worldwide economic growth, energy consumption, population growth and food production. It is unfortunate that societies invest in many programmes such as defence to protect against an uncertain but potentially dangerous threat. Investing in strategies to slow global warming is a sort of insurance policy against catastrophes that have far greater odds of occurring than most events for which we buy insurance. According to Dr Munk, atmospheric measurements of warming have been made at 10,000 meteorological stations but atmosphere is unstable in itself and subject to tremendous local variations caused by industrialisation, urban life-style, pockets of dense population and even architecture.

"The environment is a fragile one and it has to be protected." Dr M.R. Srinivasan. Till now pollution was associated with belching chimneys, factory effluents, waste tips and open sewers with the blame laid squarely on industry and urban population. But, agriculture, too is a major cause of pollution. "It has not always been so. For the most part of its history, agriculture has been environmentally benign. But now the principal

agricultural pollutants are agrochemicals, mainly pesticides and fertilisers. The damage caused by pesticides is greater than might be expected. The reason being poor selectivity, dramatic increase in use and the 'insurance' use of pesticides by farmers who try to avert the worst possible loss." Prof Gordon Convey. However, the extent of carcinogenicity (ability to induce cancer) of pesticides is controversial. The WHO believes there is little risk of carcinogenicity but the U.S. environmental protection agency has already identified 53 compounds as causing either benign or malignant tumours.

Besides the problem of environmental degradation and degeneration that human civilization has to live and cope with, an equally serious and stifling in nature and numbers is the problem of explosive population graph, mostly in the developing countries, that has rendered all plans, programmes and policies go astray and awry. The alarming rise in population has not only led to faster exploitation and use of natural resources but also to their mindless and thoughtless depletion with dangerous implications for the future. "In the final analysis, all of us are prisoners of our perceptions, watching shadows on the walls of Plato's cave—perhaps it is easier to reach some of the farthest planets in outer space than succeed in fertility regulation on our earth", says Dr Egon Diczfalussy of the Karolinska Institute, Sweden. The WHO estimates global population in 1807 was one billion. By 1927 this had gone up to 2 billion; by 1960 to 3 billion, by 1974 to 4 billion and by 1987 to 5 billion. What the future

holds for us on this front, is too explicit and exacting to need any analysis or critical appreciation. Closely linked with burgeoning population is the problem of infant mortality, mal-nutrition of the newborn, ill-clothing, housing and schooling of children and their subsequent exploitation as child-labour and juvenile delinquents.

Human civilization is confronted with another equally grave issue, which can be ignored only at our own peril and prestige. The care and concern for the aged who become socially irrelevant and economically a burden on every society, irrespective of the complexion or geographical habitation of that society. 'Old-age homes' bereft of emotional and family ties may provide shelter to a few but to look after millions and millions of elderly people as members of civilised societies, is daily posing an insurmountable problem.

Never before did human civilization confront such predicaments as global drug-trafficking and drug-addiction; terrorism, insurgency and militancy, kidnappings and abductions, mindless murders and venomous violence as it faces today. Deeply concerned over increasing drug abuse and its ramifications across the globe, 150 member-States of the UN gave a political commitment to use all possible resources, financial and human, in the war against the production, use and smuggling of narcotics when they assembled under the auspices of UN in February 1990 and declared 1991-2000 as "Decade against drug abuse". The Colombian President, Mr V. Barco Vargas has already proclaimed "a new world war" against drug traffickers. In his words: "We, a community of nations, find ourselves under assault from an international criminal enterprise that respects none of our norms of sovereignty, frontiers or laws. It is the insatiable demand for drugs that fuels world terrorism which is one of the great threats to democracy and rule of law anywhere and everywhere in the world."

A number of countries that have suffered the scourge of terrorism in all its facets and forms, whether born,

bred and boosted at home or inspired from abroad, fully realise the gravity of the challenge and have prepared themselves for coordinated efforts coupled with concerted action to meet the menace which is at war against humanity and its time-honoured values. With its most efficient and upto-date infra-structure, the U.S. government is prepared to offer bounties upto \$ 2 million for those who help the U.S. in the fight against terrorism.

"As civilization advances, poetry declines." Technologically the current face of human civilization may have no parallel in the entire history of mankind but as far as excellence of creative imagination and aesthetics of 'seven wonders' and the like of the past are concerned, human hands and vision have yet to reach that state of sublimity and add a few more modern master-pieces, notwithstanding its breath-taking and record-breaking achievements in almost all walks of life. The Guinness Book of World Records may stand as testimony to the best in human endurance and inventiveness yet the 'golden ages' of the past are still the haunting as well as the taunting epochs to be resurrected and relished again with all the electronic gadgets and technical know-how at our command. Since every achievement is followed either by another milestone or set-back, as the case may be, the present human civilization finds itself at cross-roads with many problems, like writings on the wall, staring and stunning our senses with questions that require immediate answers as also corrective and curative actions.

Excessive sense of insecurity and unbridled ambitions are leading to mental tensions and disorders, alienation and depression bordering on ridiculous situations where human relations have become artificial and living nihilistic. Conflict and coercion are proving too strong to be resisted when superior powers are dealing with their opponents who are economically under-dogs and militarily weak. 'Might is right' is becoming a rule rather than an exception, not only among members of the

same social/ethnic groups but also among nations. As far as individuals are concerned they are either the victims of self-delusion or of the glamour of 'Yuppie culture' with 'no time to stand and stare' and to watch and appreciate the 'eternal sights and sounds of nature'. At no time in the past was civilization conditioned by so many 'ifs' and 'buts' for its survival and safe passage into the future.

The problems and possibilities of human civilization, as it stands out in its glitter and get-up, are both stupendous and surprising. If it has given us the powers of giants and gods, it has also brought us to the brink where we can see the 'London-bridge falling' and human relations 'breaking into bits'—perhaps beyond redemption, reclamation and rehabilitation. What we find around our pygmy persons is not only the colossal creations of ages but also the menacing monsters out to blunt our susceptibilities and sensitivities. We should not forget that our happiness and welfare, the essence and essentials of all civilizations, are assured only so long as we remain the choosers. The prerogative of choice is man's most treasured possession. It is precisely in this field, more than in any other, that an ubiquitous over-spilling technology has so thoroughly undermined man's freedom. Other kinds of freedom—political, economic and what you will—can be lost and won. But when man loses his freedom of choice, it is lost for ever.

If the exciting edifice of human civilization is to be insulated against the greed of a few, each one of us shall have to take a vow to keep 'service before self', 'duty before dividend', 'commitment before convenience' and 'excellence before expediency'. If the human race is to survive for long—pollution or no pollution, nuclear armament or nuclear disarmament—it must wilfully and deliberately restrict the fruits of wild and whirling technology. An ancient Indian text says it with consummate wisdom: "This entire universe is of a piece. Do not covet it. Relish it with restraint."

Soviet Rebuff to India?

For the first time the Soviet Union has voted in favour of a Pakistani resolution on the nuclear issue and against India. The resolution sought a nuclear-free zone in South Asia. Why has the Soviet Union switched its stand on the issue? The proposition for discussion is: "The Soviet vote in favour of the Pakistani resolution on the nuclear-free zone issue is a rebuff to India and is an indication of future policy."

Mr A Sir, the Soviet Union's vote in favour of Pakistan's resolution on the establishment of a Nuclear-free Zone (NFZ) in South Asia is evidently meant as a sharp reminder to India that there is a change not only in the world realities but also in the relations between Moscow and New Delhi. The resolution is not a new one; in fact Pakistan has been moving almost every year, since 1974, a resolution in the UN General Assembly calling for establishment of a nuclear-free zone. The resolution is supported by the vast majority of UN Assembly members, but the Soviet Union until now had remained neutral on this issue and abstained from voting. On November 11 last, however, the Soviet Union voted in favour of the Pakistani proposal. India has been virtually isolated on the question. The vote is a calculated move, not a decision taken on the spur of the moment or a temporary aberration. India's stand is on principle, but it is a pity that only Bhutan and Mauritius backed this country; all the others supported the Pakistani resolution. India's stand is that as long as China, a major nuclear power, continues to pose a danger in the nuclear field, it would be a security risk for India to give up its bomb option. But other countries somehow fail to appreciate this standpoint and have fallen a prey to Pakistani

propaganda. The supporters of the Pakistani proposal include Bangladesh (in fact, it was a co-sponsor of the resolution), Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives. It needs to be recalled that early in June, 1991, the Pakistani Prime Minister made a subtle suggestion for a five-nation conference to be attended by India, Pakistan, the USA, the Soviet Union and China. The ostensible aim was to resolve the issue of nuclear proliferation in South Asia. Indian sources described the resolution as subtly motivated and "old wine in an old bottle, not even in a new one." The move was cleverly timed and the motive was political—to make a good impression on the US so as to persuade it to resume economic and military aid which had been suspended in October, 1990, because of Islamabad's nuclear programme. The US President was unable to issue the requisite certificate required under the Pressler amendment for including Pakistan among the countries to which US aid could be given. Although the US generally welcomed Mr Sharif's proposal, it did not resume the suspended aid to Pakistan. But the vote on the nuclear-free zone resolution may have notable consequences. Whatever the USA's final decision, the Soviet gesture is likely to have an impact on future ties with India. It is certainly a rebuff calling for due note by New Delhi. In future also Moscow may vote against India.

Mr B In my opinion, we need not be in a hurry to draw the conclusion that the Soviet Union is no longer a dependable ally. Every now and then, Soviet leaders affirm their country's friendship with India. The 1971 Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, recently extended for another 20 years, is proof of

Soviet intentions. The assurances of close and abiding friendship were renewed during the recent four-day visit of India's Foreign Minister, Mr Madhavsinh Solanki to Moscow (November 14 to 17). The Soviet foreign relations priorities are obviously under review. The development indicates that the time has come for a revision of India's policy also. Of course this country's stand on the nuclear issue is based on principle; it regards the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as discriminatory, one-sided and inequitable. But India's position has been weakened by the decision of both China and France to sign the treaty and thus fall in line with the majority of western countries. India has to safeguard her own security and need not follow the path taken by the western world and China. A dramatic change has occurred in the global security, the strategic environment in general and the nature of the nuclear dialogue as well as the entire question of disarmament. The end of the Cold War, the significant reductions in nuclear and conventional armaments announced by the USA recently (the Soviet Union has assured a matching response) and the growing concern over the proliferation of nuclear weapons have radically transformed the picture. There was also the discovery of large hidden stocks of enriched uranium in Iraq. The situation has naturally been causing great concern among the leading powers. So, any move that is designed to eliminate the nuclear menace is readily welcomed by the USA and the Soviet Union which, in the new post-Gulf war world, toes the Washington line in order to get more financial and other aid from the West. Since the USA had decided to back the Pakistani proposal, the Soviet Union also fol-

lowed suit. So I feel that the Soviet switch in the vote on the nuclear-free zone issue need not be interpreted as a lasting rebuff to India. Probably, it is the compulsion of circumstances that has prompted the Soviet Union to cast its vote along with the U.S. The vote, I feel, will not adversely affect the Soviet Union's regional commitments. I don't think the Soviet Union is now concerned more with Pakistan's security and strategic concerns than those of its old ally, India.

Mr C Sir, my predecessor seems to be living in a world of make-believe, far removed from the harsh realities. Otherwise, he would not have failed to note the important change that has taken place in the international situation of which Pakistan has taken due note and of which it has made the best use. It looks as if the Soviet Union, greatly weakened as it is, does not have the courage to stick to its old and repeatedly affirmed stand on the nuclear-free zone issue. Moscow's policy is no longer determined by Soviet leaders but is virtually dictated by US President George Bush assisted by Mr James Baker, the eminently successful diplomat who has been visiting various world capitals to promote the US policy line. India has been repeatedly outmanoeuvred in the field of international diplomacy. The first-ever vote by the Soviet Union against India has naturally hurt New Delhi, but it has to be remembered that India no longer occupies a place of importance in the international arena. This country is in fact being repeatedly ignored and is widely regarded as dispensable. India has bungled in playing its diplomatic card at the appropriate time. Well-informed circles in India, including the experts of this country's External Affairs ministry in the North Block, feel that the Soviet vote marks the beginning of a major shift from the traditional friendly relations between India and the Soviet Union. Does the vote not indicate that the friendship between the two countries can no longer be taken for

granted? The contention that Pakistan made the move in the UN without consulting India does not carry conviction. Why should Pakistan consult India against which the resolution is designed and with which its relations are strained? Besides, Pakistan was keen, as the pattern of voting has shown, to isolate India on the nuclear issue. Pakistan is fully aware of the stand taken by India which has consistently maintained that geopolitically, from India's viewpoint, the proposal for a nuclear-free zone in S. Asia is misleading if not distinctly deceptive since India shares a long border with China—a nuclear power whose arsenal is a massive one and not open to international inspection. Moreover, India would like any nuclear-free zone to cover the Indian Ocean where Big Powers maintain ships with nuclear warheads. Nuclear-free zones have been established in several other parts of the world following arrangements freely arrived at by countries of the concerned region. India has supported moves for global consensus in favour of such zones. In the case of the Pakistani move however there are many hurdles.

Mr D While I agree with Mr C that there are many obstacles in the way of India agreeing with Pakistan on the nuclear issue, my contention is that while the substantial extent of the Soviet rebuff and implied warning about the shape of things to come cannot be denied, it would be highly dangerous for India to ignore the real meaning of the Soviet vote. Nor would it be wise to rest content with the thought that the vote is only recommendatory and not binding on the General Assembly. The fact remains that India has suffered a defeat and measures must be taken to refurbish this country's image in the international arena. At present the widespread impression is that Pakistan's resolution is reasonable since it would check the proliferation of nuclear weapons. India should become more active and expose Pakistan's hypocrisy. While advocating a nuclear-free zone, our neighbour is

persisting with its hectic preparations for building a nuclear bomb. The latest report indicates that Pakistan has the requisite raw material and the sophisticated technology for manufacturing 10 nuclear bombs. Islamabad is earnestly pursuing its clandestine nuclear weapons programme. On the other hand, India's nuclear programme is based on certain principles—that nuclear energy should be developed for peaceful purposes, that nuclear weapons are abhorrent and must be eliminated and that credible security can be assured only if this issue is addressed globally. But Pakistan is having it both ways: it is getting credit for advocating a nuclear weapons-free zone in South Asia and also continuing its efforts to arm itself with nuclear weapons by hook or by crook. Perhaps India should learn a lesson in international diplomacy from the USA and Pakistan. The changing international situation certainly demands an adjustment in both policy and posture. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachov, in a message to the Indian Prime Minister, has underscored the importance of accord-ing high priority to the Indo-Soviet friendship and cooperation. In an obvious attempt to put an end to speculation about the state of Indo-Soviet relations, following the Soviet note against India at the U.N. on the nuclear issue, Mr Gorbachov reiterated that India was an important country. The letter sent by the Soviet President was handed over to Mr Narasimha Rao on November 21, 1991, by a senior adviser to Mr Gorbachov. It expressed the hope that in the coming months, the two countries would be able to sort out pending issues like the rouble-rupee parity, rescheduling of debts and continuing cooperation in defence. Mr Rao, in his message to Mr Gorbachov had recalled that November 26 would mark the fifth anniversary of the joint declaration made by him and Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister, on the principle of non-violent and nuclear-weapon free world. Too much importance need not therefore be attached to the Soviet vote in the U.N.

Argumentative Questions on Social and Economic Problems

The following are the answers to the remaining two questions of the paper set for the Reserve Bank of India Staff Officers "Grade A" Examination held in June, 1991. Answers to the previous eight questions were published in the "C.M.'s" November and December issues.

Q. 9. (a) "Women are the most exploited class in society." Do you agree with this view? Why?

(b) What measures would you suggest to improve their status?

Ans. (a) Life is tough for women in the developing countries such as India. Female children, according to a UN report on human development, get less food, less health care, less education, less professional training and less pay even when they work for longer hours than men. In fact, there is discrimination against women in almost all arenas of activity. There is exploitation and discrimination at every step.

Since the attainment of independence in 1947, several laws have been placed on the statute-book in order to check the continuous discrimination against women and prevent their exploitation and improve their condition—the Equal Remuneration Act and the Minimum Wages Act; then there are the IPC provisions against murder, attempted murder and abetment in suicide. And yet discrimination against women continues.

A recent study showed that in U.P. women Zari workers are paid Rs 5 or so per day while men get Rs 25 a day. Women in Bihar break stones in the scorching sun for Rs 3 to Rs 4 per day.

Women are assaulted in towns and cities. Dowry deaths are on the increase even in cities like Delhi despite all the high sounding as-

surances that effective steps would be taken by the Government to check the menace. Female infanticide also continues; even the obnoxious practice of *sati* remains unchecked.

I fully agree with the view that women especially Harijans, are the most exploited section of Indian society. If this had not been so, they would not have suffered indignities and humiliation in homes and in the fields. Women are helpless members of society, by and large. Except in advanced society, they are exploited by, ruthless greedy males. Maximum possible advantage is taken of their state of helplessness and their economic distress in farms and factories. Even in politics, political parties deny them justice and equal treatment. This is clear from the very small number of women who are given the ticket by various political parties for fighting elections. The result is that the number of women in Parliament and in the State Assemblies is very small.

(b) Measures to improve women's Status: The various laws passed from time to time provide evidence of the intention, at least in theory, of the country's leaders and legislatures to improve the condition of women in various arenas of activity. But the enforcement is poor. So strict enforcement of laws for women should be ensured at both Central and State levels.

This implies not only that full implementation of laws and regulations should be ensured but also those who ignore or defy the laws specifically designed to check the exploitation of women should be duly punished. It is a pity that offenders in this regard are seldom awarded deterrent

punishment. Thus unjust and prejudiced people merrily exploit women and do not suffer any punishment for their misdeeds.

There is urgent need to ensure that women are given their due place in society and in the governmental set-up, including the legislatures. If justice is ensured to women at the top, the practice will in due course percolate to the lower and middle levels.

There is also need for consistent propaganda in all parts of the country, rural and urban, to impress upon people that women have to be assured their rightful place in society. For instance, the proposal, much-publicised a couple of years ago, that 30 per cent seats in local bodies at all levels and in State Assemblies and in Parliament would be reserved for women, without further delay, should be enforced.

SHORT NOTES

Q. 10. Write notes on any two of the following:

(a) Decline of leftist ideology in the communist world.

(b) Industrial sickness and its consequences.

(c) Need for alternative and renewable sources of energy in India.

(d) Electoral Reforms in India.

Ans. (a) Leftist ideology: Time was when communism and socialism were supreme in the communist world, especially the USSR, the Eastern Bloc, China and some other countries. But, owing to the flaws inherent in the communist system, the ideology now stands discredited and has become the subject of widespread denunciation. Public welfare all round and justice—social, economic and political—were promised but

have not materialised. No one thought that within a few years of Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's rise to power communism would collapse, and yet this is precisely what has happened.

Communism is dead in the Soviet Union. There is disillusionment and disappointment all round. Social and economic welfare have become illusory. Instead of adequate food and shelter for all, there are soul-killing shortages, empty shop counters and long queues at ration shops. The theory and ideology of communism are shorn of content. The blame is inevitably put on the leaders, many of whom are suspected to have amassed wealth at the personal level; there is believed to be corruption and waste in sections of leftist society. This has capped continuous mismanagement of the country's affairs.

(b) Industrial Sickness: Mismanagement, inefficiency, waste and excessive bureaucratisation, besides several other flaws, have caused sickness among certain industries. When the capital investment does not bring adequate returns, when there is inefficient management, nepotism, ill-conceived policies, wrong assessments of market conditions and about the actual supply-demand equations, certain industries continually run at a loss; there are not funds enough even to pay the labour their daily or monthly wages. When unsold stocks mount along with debts, sickness is the sequel. The banks decline to give further credit and loans to the defaulting firms. The Government has learnt a bitter lesson by taking over several sick concerns. The ill-conceived schemes for takeovers would not provide a solution to industrial sickness. On the contrary, with very few exceptions, the position of the sick plants worsened and the Government has decided not to take over any more sick units. Such sickness in the case of the public sector has meant a heavy drain on the public exchequer.

Industrial sickness is found in the private sector also. In such cases the owners—the inefficient lot—have

been compelled either to auction their machinery and unsold stocks or to resort to insolvency. In some cases sick units have been acquired by successful and efficient industrialists and made a part of their bigger factories. Better management and good use of raw materials and labour have helped in many cases to transform the picture and have ended, or at any rate reduced, the intensity of the sickness.

(c) Sources of energy: The requirements of energy in India, as in many other developing countries, are met from a variety of sources—non-commercial ones like firewood, animal dung and agricultural wastes, etc, and commercial forms such as electricity, coal, oil and nuclear power. While the non-commercial forms of energy have been traditionally used in India to meet the bulk of the rural energy demand, especially of the household sector, the most convenient and versatile energy sources in the country are considered to be coal, oil (including natural gas) and electricity.

The main thrust of the energy policy of the Union Government has been towards the development and exploitation of indigenously available energy sources, conventional as well as non-conventional, with a view to achieving self-sufficiency, efficient utilisation of energy through elimination of wasteful uses, conservation and demand management. Since there is a perpetual shortage of electricity in India there is urgent need for alternative and renewable sources of energy.

Electricity plays a crucial role in both industrial and agricultural sectors. Power development has naturally been given high priority in the country's development programmes. But the power sector is highly capital-intensive. Investment in the sector constitutes a substantial share of the total outlay on Five Year plans. The available power resources need to be supplemented through nuclear power development because both wood and coal supplies are limited. There are ample hydel sources but not all of them can be tapped

economically because of the high cost of electricity production and distribution.

Despite the difficulties at the initial stages, greater use should be made of solar power and wind power. Experiments conducted in areas where both (or either) of these sources is available in plenty have borne good results. Bio-energy is another source that should be given greater attention, but it is nuclear energy that can contribute significantly to the availability of energy.

(d) Electoral Reforms in India: The present system of elections in India is faulty and does not offer equal opportunities to all sections of society to fight elections. Money power and muscle power are predominant. The soaring election expenditure virtually queers the pitch for candidates having very limited resource. The well-off individuals, and political parties having ample financial and other resources, have bright prospects of getting elected. It is only in a few cases that poor people have managed to get elected to State Assemblies and Parliament.

Inevitably, black money operators, the profiteers and lawless elements play a prominent role in the electoral process. There are numerous electoral malpractices in this country such as booth capturing, rigging, violence, pressures on voters of various kinds, including caste, communal and community pressures. All these, acting in combination, distort the electoral scene.

Various committees and commissions have been constituted from time to time to suggest reforms and eminently practicable electoral packages have also been presented by the Election Commissions, but for one reason or another the suggestions have not been implemented.

A factor that distorts the election results and in fact the entire electoral process is the entry of a large number of independent candidates.

ECONOMIC SCENE

On Borrowing Spree

Q. Explain the heroic efforts made by the government to have access to foreign funds from international financing agencies and other sources.

Ans. The acute foreign exchange liquidity crunch with foreign exchange reserves at the nadir in June last (Rs 2300 crore) was a formidable challenge before the present government. It however used it as an opportunity to re-structure the derailed economy and launched a package of bold measures soon after it assumed office.

The keynote of the economic reforms is liberalisation in trade and industries and competitiveness both internally and externally to beef up export earnings. The ultimate objective is to offset the fundamental disequilibrium in the Balance of Payments (BOPs) and to reduce the fiscal deficits to contain the inflationary pressures.

Recognising the government's determination to rehabilitate the economy, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have acceded to its demand for generous foreign assistance. With this has restarted India's borrowing spree. But it is with a difference. India will no longer be living on borrowings as in the decade of eighties but will improve the repaying capacity of the economy through sustained development. This has been brought home to the international financing institutions—the IMF and the IBRD—at the 46th annual Fund-Bank meeting held at Bangkok on October 23-26, 1991.

The IMF has sanctioned on October 31, 1991, the much-awaited stand-by loan of \$ 2.262 billion. It will be released in 3 instalments over the next 20 months in support of the government's economic and financial programmes. The first instalment of \$ 100 million under the stand-by

loan will be released by mid-November, 1991. Subsequent instalments would follow in quick succession.

The World Bank will also sanction a structural adjustment loan of 500 million dollar later in November 1991. This will be a clear signal to the commercial banks in regard to the renewed creditworthiness of India, which had deteriorated in the first half of the current (1991) calendar year.

The \$ 2.262 billion stand-by loan arrangement will be reviewed in March 1992 after the presentation of the 1992-93 budget for conversion into a long-term low-cost loan under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) scheme if the IMF is satisfied with the government's performance in implementing the economic reforms, reduction in fiscal deficits to 6.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and cut in the current account deficit.

How much of EFF loan will be needed? According to the World Bank estimate, India would need such a loan of \$ 5-7 billion for a period of 3-4 years. Indications are that the loan will get the green signal from the Fund. Beginning with 3.7 billion in 1991-92, it will taper off gradually, though, to \$ 2.8 billion in 1992-93 and \$ 2 billion in 1994-95. It will be completely eliminated in 1996-97. It has triple merits: it will give India a greater leeway in the matter of repayment; it will have a low rate of interest of 0.5 per cent per annum and will not add much to the pressure of repayment of principle and interest on account of India's past debt of around \$ 72 billion. It will be in addition to the official projects aid, commercial borrowing and non-resident Indians' investments.

The acknowledged critics of the government's deal with the IMF would pounce on the severity of the reforms and letting the country be

held to ransom by the Fund. There would be the question of pace of implementing the radical measures, apart from their nature. It must also be recognised that the borrowings from the IMF and the World Bank represent only a process of renewing the debts and the World Bank has projected India's debt service payments at an average of 25 per cent from 1991-92 through 1995-96. It is likely to decline subsequently if the assumptions of (net) export growth hold valid. Sustained growth will be contingent on the utilization of the fresh debts India is able to secure now.

Agricultural Strategy Review

Q. "The strategy of agricultural development in India and the related policies necessitate a fundamental review." (World Bank). Outline the policy changes needed for the farm development.

Ans. Despite the umpteen measures taken for the development of Indian agriculture, it remains under-developed in terms of productivity and unit cost. The World Bank has, in a recent report—*India: Country Economic Memorandum, 1991 Vol. II*—pointed out flaws in agricultural policies and set out a set of growth-promoting measures. These may be enumerated as follows:

1. India has registered an impressive growth in foodgrains since mid-1960s. But it is modest compared to the performance in other Asian countries and to India's population growth rate of 2.1 per cent per annum.

2. Growth is concentrated in a few crops and regions, mainly the irrigated ones. Diversification is imperative. Since the new technology is responsive to adequate and assured water supply, higher growth targets can be achieved by investment in irrigation projects and research to increase production in dryland regions.

Appropriately, the World Bank report says that the future growth will come from intensifying production, increasing efficiency and shifting to higher-value crops.

3. Protection of industries and trade controls have worked against agriculture.

4. Greater participation of the private sector and less dependence on the State is suggested.

5. The present economic crisis in India demands immediate reduction of subsidies. Its benefit is derived by farmers who use improved inputs. Subsidies, according to the report, are crowding out productive investments in irrigation and power infrastructure.

6. The Public Distribution System need re-orientation to provide succour to the poor. At present, it is concentrated in urban areas and forty per cent of the off-take of foodgrains goes to benefit the richer forty per cent of the population.

7. A hike in electricity tariff and fertiliser prices in a phased manner; increased incentives for rice, cotton and wheat production; reduction in protection for oilseeds and sugarcane are recommended by the report.

8. The World Bank suggests restructuring of the fertiliser industry for reasons of inefficiency and high protection.

9. The real public investment has declined and the private investment has stagnated. With the result that the rate of capital formation in agriculture has fallen, says the report.

10. With only one-fourth of the farmers using cooperative credit and barely four per cent using commercial bank credit, loan waivers and unviable branch banking have strained unduly the agricultural credit system to the point of a collapse. Also, low interest rates and high loan default are hidden subsidies which benefit primarily the larger and wealthier farmers.

11. The rural banking need to be consolidated by eliminating credit subsidies and making credit more viable.

12. The composition of invest-

ment in agriculture by the Centre and the States should be reviewed with a view to rationalising public expenditure, eliminating spreading resources to cover myriads of small programmes, with thin resources and prioritisation of activities.

13. Increased access to land, consolidation of land holdings and security of tenure are also recommended to ensure sustainable use of land and other material resources.

To conclude, the agricultural policy has flawed on many a front and needs multi-lateral and radical reforms to make agriculture a key sector to leverage the economy to a higher growth path.

Black Money—a Menace

Q. Write a note on black money bringing out its causes, cures and effects.

Ans. What is black money? Simply defined, any income which is taxable under the tax laws but escapes taxation is termed black money. The unscrupulous persons have through devious means and methods saved large chunks of income from suffering a tax and have thus accumulated tons of money, notwithstanding the efforts of the government to discourage this.

Though no firm estimates of black money are available, it is guesstimated around Rs 100,000 crore! It is a fabulous amount doing havoc. How black money is generated; how it can be disgorged and how it poses to be a menace, to the society are vital questions.

Generation: The contributory factors for the generation of black money are as follows:

1. High rates of direct and indirect taxes breed tax evasion and tax avoidance.

2. The economic policies such as industrial licensing schemes, stringent controls and complex rules and regulations lead to corruption and malpractices.

3. Unconscionable expenses by individuals and political parties on elections to meet which donations and hush money are offered out of black money.

4. Inefficient and corrupt administration and poor tax compliance have also contributed to black money accumulation.

5. Erosion of ethical norms and disregard for the laws have generated insensitivity to the tax laws so that tax evasion is no longer regarded unethical and does not carry any social stigma.

6. Inflation has whetted the avarice for acquisition of black money as it helps to sustain and improve a given standard of living. It is both a cause and an effect of black money.

Flushing out black money:

More important than unearthing the black money is to stop its generation. An enduring method for that is to change the 'black' hearts, to reduce the lure for money and wealth. But it is not easy nor quick result-yielding. Better tax compliance through reduction in tariffs and effective enforcement of tax laws by the authorities can be helpful. Punitive measures have proved less productive.

The government has, in the past, declared many schemes to flush out black money but the results have fallen far short of expectations.

In the last (1991-92) budget, a new scheme for voluntary disclosure of black money was announced. According to this, a person can make a deposit with the National Housing Bank by January 31, 1991. Forty per cent of such deposits would be deducted as a special levy for slum clearance and low-cost housing for the poor. The balance 60 per cent of the deposits will be withdrawable by the depositor at any time. There is no lock-in period. The depositor would be immune from enquiry and investigation as to the source of funds but the monies net of the special levy would be subject to treatment under the Direct Tax Laws.

Impact: The black money operations have inflicted disastrous effects on the economy. It stokes the amber flames of inflation; widens the inter-personal disparities leading to social discontent; creates distortions in the economy; luxury goods abound while the wage goods are scarce.

Positive Attitude is the Secret of Success

Attitude of Expectation

HOW to do? To do this you should begin to develop an attitude of expecting to be happy, healthy and a fully functioning personality. Strike the 'r' of Can't, leaving the great magic word CAN standing forth unforgettably. This positive attitude is of vital importance in the art of success.

You can develop an expecting attitude by deciding to develop it. There is no secret way to have it. You simply decide that you are not going to be beaten down by anything external to you, that you are going to shoulder responsibility for changing your life if it is not satisfactory and that you are going to do it whatever the odds.

Remember, attitudes can be changed from negative to positive. This is the basic principle of Transactional Analysis, a new therapy in psychiatry. It has given a new answer to the people who want to change rather than to adjust to people who want transformation rather than conformation. It teaches us that a person is responsible for what happens in future, no matter what has happened in the past.

As Elton Trueblood points out, "Man is a creature whose present is constantly being dominated by reference to the non-existent, but nevertheless potent future." Be closely in league with the future: no one can take it away from you.

Don't Underestimate your Capabilities

"Almost every man thinks too poorly of himself", deplores H.N. Casson. "He underestimates his brain and his will and his stamina. He has no idea of what he can—if he

dares."

Your physical, mental, emotional and social capabilities are as good as those of the next man. Self-depreciation undermines self-confidence. Avoid being victimised by your attitudes or expectations about your physical health. Your own attitude can become the most potent medicine in the world. Dr Franz Alexander in his "Psychosomatic Medicine, its Principles and Application", observes, "The fact that the mind rules the body is, in spite of its neglect by biology and medicine, the most fundamental fact about the process of life." Health is a condition of the mind.

Do not under-estimate your mental capabilities. If you believe that you are dumb and dim, you will perform accordingly. Says Dr Dyer, "There is a genius residing in you, and you can expect to let its brilliance surface or you can think of yourself as unfortunately ill-equipped by nature in the whole gray matter area." The stress is on you what you expect from yourself. You can believe that it is going to be tough to learn something new, and you will find yourself experiencing the difficulty you predicted. Be confident that you can learn to do anything you choose.

In emotional capabilities, you are inferior to none. Once again it all depends on what sort of expectations you have for yourself. If you expect to be depressed, anxious, afraid, angry, then you will make these conditions regular parts of your life. You are what you choose to be for yourself, and if you stop expecting emotional upset and instability, you will begin to take on the traits of a fully functioning personality. Get rid of

emotional stress, Dr John A. Schindler, M.D., has suggested the following practical aids for doing so:

(1) Practice thought control. When you catch yourself starting a stressing emotion like worry, anxiety, fear, apprehension or discouragement, STOP IT. Substitute a healthy emotion like equanimity, courage, determination, resignation or cheerfulness.

(2) Carry this idea every minute of the day: I AM GOING TO KEEP MY ATTITUDE AND THINKING CALM AND CHEERFUL RIGHT NOW.

(3) When the going is good and smooth, allow yourself the delightful feeling of being happy.

(4) When the going gets rough, (i) Stay outwardly as cheerful and as pleasant as you possibly can. Lighten an awkward situation with a bit of humour, wry though it may be. (ii) Avoid running your misfortune through your mind like a repeating phonograph record. Above all do not let yourself get irritated, upset or hysterical. (iii) Turn every defeat into a moral victory. (iv) Run these flags up on your mast-head and keep them flying.

Equanimity: (Let's stay calm).

Resignation: (Let us accept this setback gracefully).

Courage: (I can take this, and more).

Determination: (I'll turn this defeat into victory).

Cheerfulness: (Bowed but not broken).

Pleasantness: (Still good-will towards men).

Social Capabilities

ONCE again the emphasis is on what you expect from yourself. If you see yourself as clumsy, gauche, inarticulate, fumbling, self-conscious, introverted and so on, you have unsocial expectations which will be followed by appropriate unsocial behaviour. Your expectations for how you will function in your social structure will largely determine what your life will be like. Begin to picture yourself as articulate, creative or as anything else you want to be. Do not be discouraged by a few initial letdowns; simply see them as learning experiences, and get on with living zestfully.

At the same time cultivate social courage. It is the opposite to apathy. It is the courage to relate to other human beings, the capacity to risk one's self in the hope of achieving meaningful intimacy. Social courage requires the confronting of two kinds of fear as described by Otto Rank.

1. *The life fear*—the fear of living autonomously; the fear of being abandoned; the need for dependency on some one else. This is the fear of self-actualisation

2. *The death fear*—the fear of being totally absorbed by the other; the fear of losing one's self (identity) and one's autonomy; the fear of one's independence taken away.

Realistic Expectations

YOU must believe in the possibility of realising your expectations. If a goal has been well chosen, your capabilities will enable you to achieve it. But your expectations, as reflected in the goal so chosen, must be realistic. It is futile and dangerous to undertake unattainable objectives. Failure can destroy self-confidence and energy. Goethe advises young poets to attempt short poems rather than epic. Samuel Butler advises that we must always eat the best grapes in the bunch first. If a task is too long to be accomplished at one stretch divide it into stages: then give your entire attention to each stage. Do not look farther than each stage, thereby following the example of the mountaineer who cuts steps in the ice refusing to look up at the heights or

down into the depths because the sight of either would terrify him.

Importance of Perseverance

"No great achievement is possible", said Bertrand Russell "without persistent work". If you want to realise your expectations you will have to work with dogged perseverance. If you persevere and follow up tirelessly, never even entertaining the idea of being put off, then you will almost always emerge not only having reached your goals, but often having far exceeded your initial expectations. As a Chinese proverb has it, "Nothing is difficult to a man who has persistence." Dr Christian Barnard who made history in medicine by his first human heart transplantation in 1968, tells us in his autobiography, *One Life* (1969) that he followed his father's advice: "Stick to it and you will make it." In his autobiography *My Life and Work* (1974), Henry Ford says that more men are beaten than fail: "It is not wisdom they need or money or brilliance or 'pull' but just plain gristle and bone. This rude, simple primitive power which we call, 'Stick-to-it-iveness' is the uncrowned king of the world of endeavour."

Overcome fear of Success

MAN asserts himself in two ways. One is to succeed, to justify or even exceed others' expectations. The second is to fail. By failing one demonstrates one's own power, sometimes at the cost of total self-defeat. It is of utmost significance to remember that failure is a mechanism which is productive and satisfying way of life for a large number of people. You may be one of them.

Many feel and believe that the higher you climb, the harder you fall. There is a similar psyche operating among others who want to pay a price for success and good fortune. Their attitude reveals that somehow it is necessary to suffer in a huge measure for every bit of success and achievement. Such people fear that other people will resent their success. That every advancement will create hostility and envy. That every step forward will provoke some kind of reprisal or punishment. In such cases,

failure becomes a kind of security blanket which provides familiar warm comfort. It also protects against the uncertain and eventful struggle which success involves.

Many staunchly believe that ambition is a dangerous thing. That the price of ambition is death. They fear that success will bring on them the revenge of gods. That by failing they are protecting themselves against a dreadful divine wrath. They thus hold themselves back even in this world where material success is the common denominator of human behaviour.

Before you want to be successful you have to free yourself from these fears which have come down to us from centuries past. You must learn to stop punishing yourself. You must safeguard yourself against subtle methods through which you sabotage your own success. The methods employed are devious and complex. So much so that you may be totally unaware of their application in your own case. The instinct of self-defeat is strong and insidious. It operates through commonsense. The instinct to do nothing, to stay put, to accept the present, however hard or unpleasant, is stronger than the power to remove obstacles, to shed the fear of failure and succeed. Once it builds into the basic structure of the personality, it becomes hard to shed it.

Summing up

You will be what you expect from yourself provided:

- (1) Your expectations are realistic;

- (2) Your aims are clear-cut;

- (3) You have no inferiority feelings about your capabilities, physical, emotional, intellectual and social; and

- (4) You pursue your aims with dogged perseverance taking obstacles in your stride. Then in words of Martin Rhodes, "You can become the one person in a hundred who has the initiative to start things, the drive to pursue them, and the determination to get them completed."

Notes on Current Affairs

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

◆ BY-ELECTIONS. MIXED VERDICT ◆ PUNJAB POLL EARLY IN FEB ◆ INDIA-NEPAL DIFFERENCES RESOLVED ◆ INDIA STICKS TO STAND ON NPT ◆ NUCLEAR REACTOR CONTROVERSY ◆ BJP'S WARNING ON N-ISSUE ◆ SUCCESS OF OPERATION RHINO ◆ SOVIET TUSSE: IMPACT ON INDIA ◆ DRIVE AGAINST KIDNAPPINGS ◆ CAUVERY ORDINANCE QUASHED ◆ PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS ◆ POLITICAL CRISIS IN MEGHALAYA ◆ TERRORISM. INDIA'S CALL TO UN ◆ JHARKHAND STATE SOON ◆

By-elections: Mixed Verdict

THE by-elections for filling 15 Lok Sabha and 56 Assembly seats held on November 16 yielded a mixed verdict and broadly repeated the results of the May-June general poll.

The Congress has emerged as the top scorer in the by-elections in 14 States, winning eight seats in Parliament and 19 in the Assemblies. The Janata Dal has three Lok Sabha (all from Bihar) and nine Assembly seats and the BJP bagged two Lok Sabha and 15 Assembly constituencies.

The Forward Bloc and the Bahujan Samaj Party have got one Lok Sabha seat each, the SJP five Assembly seats and others, including independents, eight.

Elections were originally scheduled for 16 Lok Sabha and 58 assembly constituencies but were countermanded in the New Delhi Lok Sabha and Agartala and Allagadda Assembly constituencies in Tripura and Andhra Pradesh respectively, following the death of candidates.

The Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, created a record by winning the Nandyal Lok Sabha seat with the largest ever margin in Indian electoral history. The first Prime Minister to contest a by-election, Mr Narasimha Rao won by over 5.8 lakh votes over his nearest BJP rival, Mr Bangaru Laxman. Mr Rao broke the record of the Janata Dal leader, Mr Ram Vilas Paswan, who entered the Guinness Book of World Records for

his 4.7 lakh vote margin.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured an absolute majority in the U.P. Vidhan Sabha by winning 10 of the 17 seats in the by-elections.

Among the prominent winners were Capt Satish Sharma (Congress) who bagged the prestigious Amethi seat, and the Bahujan Samaj Party leader, Mr Kanshi Ram, who won the Etawah Lok Sabha seat.

The Election Commission ordered repoll in 310 Bihar booths of certain Lok Sabha constituencies. Repoll was also ordered in six Assembly constituencies of the State.

After the election's the party position in the Lok Sabha is as follows:

Congress 231 (against 223 earlier), BJP 119 (117 earlier), JD 59 (against 56 earlier), CPI (M) 35, CPI 14, TD 14, AIADMK 11, FB 4 (against 3 earlier), BSP 2 (against 1 earlier). Now there are 39 "others" and 27 vacant seats out of a full strength of 544 in the Lok Sabha. Punjab and J & K seats have yet to be filled.

Punjab poll early in Feb

ELECTIONS in Punjab are likely to be held early in February. The necessary arrangements for ensuring peaceful poll in the border State, which last elected a representative government in 1985, are now being made. The people of the State, who have been under President's rule all these years, will elect 117 members for the State Assembly and 13 members of the Lok Sabha. Indications are that besides the national parties all Akali factions, including pro-militant

organisations, will participate in the elections.

It is learnt that during their recent visits to the capital various Akali leaders have assured the Union Home Minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, and the Union Communications Minister, Mr Rajesh Pilot (who have been specially assigned by the Prime Minister to oversee developments in the troubled State) about their decision to participate in the polls. Several top militants are also understood to have conveyed to the Centre their willingness to participate through their nominees in the electoral process. The Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, had assured Parliament that regardless of the consequences, elections would be held in the State before February 15. The Government's decision to hold the elections is part of the commitment made to the nation. With a view to ensuring that elections are free from violence, the Government has decided to beef up security in all sensitive districts on the border. Deployment of additional companies of CRPF and BSF, besides induction of troops to ensure sealing of borders with Pakistan, are some of the measures already taken by the Government.

Pressure on J.-K. Militants: The Jammu and Kashmir Governor, Mr Girish Chander Saxena, said in a recent interview that the Government was pursuing a two-pronged policy for the early restoration of normalcy in the Kashmir Valley. Outlining the Government's policy on Kashmir, Mr Saxena stated there would be no lessening of pressure on militants but efforts would continue for talks with militant leaders. He said the Government was ready for talks with anyone who wanted to shun violence and to contribute towards normalcy.

The Governor did not find any

conflict or confrontation while pursuing these two approaches. At the same time it was to be understood that guns alone could not solve any political problem. One had to come to the negotiating table. "Moreover, it is part of our tradition to sort out problems through dialogue and discussions, which is the correct method in any situation." Efforts would be made to wean away more and more misguided youths from armed militants and influence of Pakistan, and more channels of communication for a meaningful dialogue would be opened.

Answering questions on an all-party meeting and the usefulness of traditional political leaders of Kashmir in bringing about normalcy, Mr Saxena said that he did not want to sit in judgement. On securing the release of kidnapped persons, the Governor pointed out that these were delicate matters. "The Government would do its best to secure the release of innocent hostages and would hold talks with abductors." Over 50 militants were released recently.

India-Nepal differences Resolved

AS many as five agreements were signed by India and Nepal in Delhi on December 6 following the visit of Mr G.P. Koirala, the new Prime Minister of Nepal, and a team comprising some Ministers and officials. The talks were cordial and a new phase of ties between the two countries started as a sequel to the removal of misunderstandings and the clarifications given by spokesmen of the two sides.

The Nepalese leader declared that no power could vitiate relations between India and Nepal. Problems might arise from time to time and forces which want to create tensions might succeed momentarily but the ties were strong and deep-rooted and these could not be disrupted.

Mr Koirala referred to the security issues and the supply of arms to Nepal by China. Such matters should not be allowed to mar the mutual relations, he stated.

The most notable of the agreements signed by the two countries

was the one covering trade and transit. The other treaties and memoranda of understanding covered water resources, agriculture, industrial development and provision of aid for various projects in the Himalayan kingdom.

The new bilateral treaty on trade and transit (the issue had caused much tension recently) is for five years and takes effect immediately. It includes all the elements contained in the earlier treaty on the matter. Several new facilities and concessions have been given to the Nepalese. These include cuts in duty and quota-free entry of Nepalese manufactured goods into India. The far-reaching transit treaty is for seven years and simplifies customs and other procedures to help Nepalese importers and exporters.

India sticks to stand on NPT

INDIA has made it clear to the U.S. authorities that it has no intention of changing its stand on the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and the proposal for declaring South Asia as a nuclear-weapon-free zone. U.S. Under-Secretary of State for International Security Affairs, Mr Bartholomew paid a short visit to New Delhi on Nov 22.

He accorded considerable priority to India signing the NPT as well as favouring the move to declare South Asia a nuclear-weapon-free zone. The substantive talks were held between the then Foreign Secretary, Mr Muchkund Dubey, and Mr Bartholomew in the spirit of developing cooperation between India and the United States.

The Indian side presented a very strong case to justify what it called its heightened reservations on both these proposals in the context of the U.S. itself suspecting that Pakistan has already developed at least half a dozen nuclear bombs. The Indian side also referred to the diminishing relevance of the NPT after Pakistan developed the nuclear weapons.

The Indian side made it clear that the countries which were sponsoring the resolution on declaring South Asia a nuclear-weapon-free zone

were insensitive to India's geographical compulsions to oppose the move. India was not against the proposal in principle, but it failed to cover countries like China and the larger part of the Indian Ocean where nuclear weapons were already deployed.

Mr Bartholomew wanted both India and Pakistan to talk to nuclear weapon countries like the USA, the Soviet Union and China to help evolve an acceptable formula, which will satisfy all countries in the region. He appreciated the progress made by India and Pakistan in preventing induction of chemical weapons. Such record of good and helpful cooperation should be extended to other fields as well.

The Indian side explained the measures already taken to help confidence-building with Pakistan on nuclear, chemical and conventional armaments in the area.

Nuclear Reactor controversy

THE U.S. and certain other sources have questioned the propriety of the proposed sale by India of a 10-megawatt research reactor to Iran. But the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has no objection against the deal. The agency's Director-General, Mr Hans Blix, stated that Iran was among the 140 countries which have signed the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and so the reactor would be subject to the IAEA's safeguards envisaged under the treaty to prevent diversion of fissionable materials to make nuclear weapons.

The IAEA chief denied reports that the US was pressuring the IAEA to use its influence to ensure NPT non-signatories like India to join the treaty. Thailand is planning to set up commercial nuclear reactors to generate electricity in the next three years. It has currently a research reactor. "They don't have to go very far to gain experience and they could learn from India", he said.

The Atomic Energy Agency is keen to extend technical assistance which was suspended after India exploded a nuclear device at Pokhran in

1974. In the new climate ushered in by the US and USSR agreeing to destroy a major portion of their nuclear arsenal, there is a growing feeling of the irrelevance of nuclear weapons. This was good for non-proliferation; it could have influenced Argentina, Brazil and South Africa to sign the NPT. South Africa has agreed to provide all the original production to the IAEA inspection team for verification. There is speculation among the international community that South Africa has produced some nuclear weapons.

The IAEA has not shifted its emphasis from the promotion of nuclear power to ensuring full safeguards. The increased allocations for the latter activity was mainly to take care of the newer members.

The IAEA has not made any suggestion to the UN General Assembly about modifying the NPT to accommodate India. The treaty has January 1, 1968, as the cut-off date and those signatories who have exploded a device prior to this date are free to pursue their weapons programme. India has termed this clause discriminatory.

BJP's Warning on N-issue

THE Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has warned the Congress Government that it should not agree to any regional arrangement as suggested by Pakistan for establishing a nuclear weapons-free zone (NWFZ) in South Asia. Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons must be global and must encompass both vertical and horizontal proliferation.

Pakistan's efforts towards establishing an NWFZ was discussed during a recent meeting of the party's office-bearers in New Delhi. "Non-use of nuclear weapons must be brought about under a global arrangement and not a regional one. The BJP will not accept anything less", according to a resolution adopted at the meeting. Apart from the discriminatory nature of the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the US-Pakistan proposal would create a false sense of security in India, it said.

Pakistan, the party believes, could not be trusted not to use its

nuclear weapons against India. Despite the Tashkent declaration and the Shimla agreement, that country was deeply involved in terrorist activities in Kashmir and Punjab. The efforts to induce India to sign the NPT or be party to the "fraudulent proposal on a NWFZ in South Asia" had failed, so a new regional proposal had been floated by the US with the connivance of Pakistan. This proposal sought to get India to join Pakistan in signing an agreement on the non-use of nuclear weapon capability against each other.

Under another proposal, the US would remain free to use nuclear weapons in other parts of the world. Moreover, the US and others would retain the right in the absence of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to continue to refine their nuclear devices and to produce new and more sophisticated weapons.

Success of operation Rhino

THE latest reports indicate that "Operation Rhino" against the ULFA militants in Assam has been a success. The Army adopted innovations on its combat techniques. At the tactical level the lessons of "Operation Bajrang" in Assam early this year and "Operation Pawan" in Sri Lanka by the IPKF came in handy in this operation.

It is the lack of strategic understanding of insurgency that was been our Achilles heel. At the military level, it includes the fullest exploitation of propaganda and the media machinery, both print and electronic, to be a disadvantage of the elusive insurgents.

ULFA's top cadre fled Assam since "Operation Rhino" was launched on September 14, 1991. The Army has arrested several top ULFA leaders and members of important district-level ULFA commanders. As a result, reports of extortion and coercion have declined.

The Army owes its success to improved intelligence collecting techniques, basic tactical drills, reconnaissance means and police para-military-army co-ordination. "Operation Bajrang", conducted

from November 28, 1990, to April 20, 1991, had a strength of eight brigades (about 26,000 troops). 'Operation Rhino' was launched with nearly 14 brigades (about 43,000 troops). The aim is to cover a newly 3,000 sq km on both sides of the Brahmaputra.

The Army is deployed in "counter-insurgency grids" in their operational area. These are based on the demographic patterns (implying the percentage of Assamese and non-Assamese in an area), probable ULFA routes and in areas where sympathisers are likely to be found.

Intelligence reports about ULFA are gathered by the forces themselves through laboriously monitored observation posts, day-and-night patrolling of likely ULFA movement areas and leads from interrogations of nabbed insurgents. Minimum use is being made of outside agencies like the IB and the State police.

Soviet Tussle: Impact on India

THERE is little doubt that the ongoing power tussle between Mr Gorbachov and Mr Boris Yeltsin will have notable repercussions on India. The Soviets have new policy priorities, this is no secret. The prolonged struggle for supremacy between Mr Gorbachov and Mr Yeltsin threatens to unsettle New Delhi's traditional ties of friendship and cooperation with Moscow. As head of Union, Mr Gorbachov still values the Indo-Soviet connection, but the strongman of the Russian Federation, Mr Yeltsin, is reluctant to commit himself to any course of action until India acknowledges him to be its valid and indeed the only interlocutor in what remains of that country.

India's dilemma is two-fold. It is impressed by Mr Gorbachov's conceptual design, vision and idealism. This prompts him to regard Moscow's friendship with New Delhi as a "strategic choice" and to view the Delhi Declaration as a "guide-post" for those who wish to work for a new genuinely equitable world order. He believes that a sound Indo-Soviet relationship will help mitigate the difficulties in his own

country.

Mr Yeltsin's entourage has made it clear that the Indo-Soviet relationship has lost its dynamism and momentum.

The Indians seem to be convinced, however, that the power balance is swiftly shifting away from the "Union" to the Russian Federation which is losing no time to assert itself as the successor State of what was once the Soviet Union.

The areas of critical concern to India's defence supplies and trade fall largely within the effective purview of the Russian Federation and not the "union". So New Delhi will have to deal with Mr Yeltsin, a tougher customer than Mr Gorbachov.

Reportedly, Mr Yeltsin made it clear to the Indian visitors that before he addresses himself to India's concerns regarding defence supplies (90 per cent of the defence industry is in Russia) he expects New Delhi to detach itself from Mr Gorbachov and to politically recognise the Russian Federation.

Drive Against Kidnappings

THE Government considers it necessary to evolve a comprehensive strategy to deal with the problem of kidnappings by militant groups for securing the release of their arrested cadres. The proposal included a package of measures incorporating elements of the overall policy to be followed, matters relating to media and public opinion, amendment of certain laws and operational matters.

The increasing incidence of kidnappings is noticeable in respect of all the militant movements in the country. More than 41,500 persons were kidnapped during the past three years in 25 States and seven Union Territories. Uttar Pradesh topped the list with 8,267 kidnappings. Of a total of 2,681 such cases in the Union Territories, Delhi registered 2,516 kidnappings. Figures for other States were Bihar (2138), Rajasthan (2107), Madhya Pradesh (1307), Maharashtra (1181) and Assam (1109).

The Government is chalking out an "action plan" to fight the Naxalite menace in various parts of the country. While dealing firmly with the extremist elements, the govern-

ment will simultaneously step up the socio-economic development of the affected areas to redress the genuine grievances of the local people. All possible assistance is being given by the Centre to the affected areas in this respect.

The Minister admitted that the Naxalite menace was on the increase in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. The Chief Ministers of the Naxalite-affected States had met in August to chalk out a strategy to check Naxalite activities. This was followed by a meeting of senior officials of these States.

Cauvery Ordinance Quashed

THE Supreme Court on Nov 22 declared unconstitutional the ordinance promulgated by the Karnataka Government to deny Cauvery waters to Tamil Nadu and observed that the Government's legislation was "an invitation to lawlessness and anarchy".

The verdict was on the Presidential reference seeking opinion on certain issues relating to the Cauvery waters dispute. It noted that the ordinance promulgated on July 25 was "against the basic tenets of the rule of law" by which the State Government tried to "take law in its own hands and to be above the law". The court held that the interim order passed by the Cauvery Waters Dispute Tribunal on June 25, awarding 205 thousand metric cubic feet (TMC) water to Tamil Nadu in a phased manner, was a "report" within the meaning of section 5(2) of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956. Therefore, it was required to be published in the gazette to be effective.

Second, a tribunal constituted under an Act is competent to grant an interim relief to the parties to the dispute when a reference for such a relief is made by the Central Government. In a significant ruling, the judges noted that there should be no doubt on the legal position of the tribunal's interim order. "To question its efficacy under the Act would be tantamount to flouting it", the court warned. This was the ninth reference made by the President of India to

seek the apex court's opinion on matters involving important constitutional and legal issues.

The President's reference was made when the MPs belonging to Tamil Nadu threatened to resign in protest against the Karnataka Chief Minister, Mr Bangarappa's ordinance on Cauvery waters issue. One Union Minister, Mr V.K. Ramamurthy, quit the Narasimha Rao cabinet and some others incurred the wrath of agitated Tamils, who wanted the Centre's intervention in implementing the tribunal's order. Meanwhile, the Karnataka Government filed a separate suit in the apex court challenging the tribunal's interim award.

Protection of Women's Rights

JANUARY 28 will be observed as the National Day for implementation of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. This was part of a resolution passed by a national convention of women's organisations in New Delhi in November. The resolution also called for a countrywide signature campaign for the implementation and lobbying for State-level Commissions.

The convention rejected the Prime Minister's announcement of constituting a commission to protect women's rights and another to study women's status. The "setting up of two more commissions is clearly a move to circumvent implementation of the National Commission Act", the resolution stated.

"The frivolous approach of the Government can be seen in its illogical separation of the question of women's rights from women's status. How can two aspects of the same problem be entrusted to two separate bodies? It is this ad-hoc approach which the constitution of the Commission under the 1990 Act will prevent", the resolution said.

Refusal to implement the Act unanimously passed by the Parliament violates democratic values, it was pointed out. The convention reiterated its rejection of the Government's intention to appoint a commissioner for women's rights within the Department of Women and Child Development. Only a statutory autonomous commission can redress women's problems, the

convention pointed out.

The convention was organised by the All-India Democratic Women's Association, All-India Women's Conference, Centre for Women's Development, Joint Women's Programme, Mahila Dakshata Samiti, YWCA, National Federation of Indian Women and Co-ordinating Committee of Working Women.

Political Crisis in Meghalaya

ALTHOUGH the 60-member Meghalaya State Assembly has been under suspended animation, efforts are being made to form a ministry. A political tussle has started once again with the Meghalaya United Parliamentary Party (MUPP) as well as the Congress staking their claims to form the Government in the hill State. The MUPP leader, Mr B.B. Lyngdoh, and the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) chief, Mr D.D. Lapang, have both forcefully asserted their majority before the Governor.

While Mr Lyngdoh paraded 30 legislators at Raj Bhavan at Shillong and presented the Governor with a statement signed by them in his support, Mr Lapang made his claim as the leader of the single largest party, preferring to keep the numerical strength of his supporters "a closely guarded secret".

The rival claims notwithstanding, President's rule is likely to continue in the State for some more time, at least till the details of the Supreme Court judgement on the anti-defection law are available and the case filed by Mr Lyngdoh against the imposition of President's rule is disposed of.

President's rule had been imposed in Meghalaya at the recommendation of the Governor after a baffling sequence of events created a situation in which it was difficult to determine which of the fronts enjoyed a majority in the House.

Terrorism: India's call to UN

INDIA on November 26 asked the United Nations to cooperate in forestalling attempts "from beyond the borders" at aiding and abetting terrorism in a country. Pakistan was

not named. "Terrorism must be tackled", demanded the Indian delegate, Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar, MP, while addressing the UN General Assembly's Social Committee which debated human rights questions.

He called terrorism "one of the most dangerous and pernicious threats to human rights" and stressed that the 1993 World Human Rights Conference in Berlin must give it "deep and considered attention". "I refer to terrorism, both territorial and extra-territorial, and the forces, internal and external, which back terrorists and terrorist organisations", the Indian delegate said.

Recounting the sins of terrorism—kidnapping, extortion, pillage, rape, torture and murder—Mr

Aiyar said it "undermines the foundations and constitutional guarantees of a democratic State".

"Terrorism aborts the right of people to elect their true representatives through free and fair elections, abrogates the full freedom of expression, causes muzzling by terrorist threats of the free press, shackles the independent judiciary, and inflicts untold damage on harmony and amity in society."

He also cautioned against linking development assistance to unilateral determination of human rights, pointing out that this "dangerous doctrine" could be used as a weapon to settle bilateral scores or "strait jacket" people and countries into a pre-determined pattern.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

◆ UKRAINE VOTES FOR INDEPENDENCE ◆ G-15 SUMMIT FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT
◆ INDIA-UK PACT ON TERRORISM ◆ PAK FIRM ON N. PLAN ◆ PAK ADVISED NOT TO AID MILITANTS ◆ CRACKDOWN ON PPP ◆ BIG TWO CUT ARMS AID TO KABUL
◆ CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY ◆ MILITARY PACT IN CAMBODIA ◆ 14TH TRUCE—MOST EXTENSIVE YET ◆ FINANCIAL CRISIS IN U N ◆ B'DESH "ABETTING" MILITANT GROUPS ◆ ARABS' NEW STRATEGY ◆

Ukraine Votes for Independence

IN an countrywide referendum held on Dec 2 an overwhelming majority of the Ukrainians voted in favour of independence for their republic and elected Mr Leonid Makarovich Kravuchuk as their first President, wrecking President Mikhail Gorbachov's efforts to keep the Soviet Union together.

Ukraine is the second most powerful republic in the erstwhile Soviet Union after Russia. Mr Kravuchuk, a former policy maker of the banned Communist Party of Ukraine, is reported to have secured 53 per cent of votes in the simultaneous republic presidential elections.

Mr Kravuchuk is a strong opponent of the new union treaty prepared by President Gorbachov and has ruled out Ukrainian participation in any political treaty with the former Soviet republics. He is known as an advocate of moderate reforms.

The referendum on inde-

pendence from the Soviet Union had won 92 per cent of the vote in the republic. President-elect Kravuchuk has expressed confidence that the world community will recognise the Ukraine as an independent State. Ukraine is one of the founder-members of the United Nations.

Meanwhile, in its commentary the Russian Statte TV rules out the signing of the new union treaty in the wake of Ukrainian independence and secession from the USSR. A new union between the Russia and Ukraine may become the corner-stone of new inter-State ties on the territory of the former USSR which may be joined by Kazakhstan and Bylorussia. All six presidential candidates endorsed full independence and said they would not sign Gorbachov's proposed treaty to maintain the central government.

All of the presidential candidates have said they would take rapid steps for further independence, including creating Ukrainian armed forces, currency and border posts.

The U.S. Ambassador to Moscow clarified that Washington would not immediately recognise Ukraine as an independent country. But Ambassador Robert Strauss predicted that the Soviet Union which was economically "somewhere between unbelievably poor and worse", would be an entirely different kind of association within a year.

Russia has promptly recognised the Ukraine as an independent country.

Gorbachov blames ultras: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachov has said that separatists were the greatest obstacle to a renewed union. During a meeting with Spanish parliamentarians in Moscow, Mr Gorbachov pointed out that reactionary forces seeking revenge for the failure of the August coup attempt were fuelling the separatist tendencies.

An attempt to play the card of national sovereignty could have catastrophic consequences, he cautioned, adding that if certain parties in the West had not backed separatism in Yugoslavia, events there would not have deteriorated as far as they have.

Mr Gorbachov sought to counter western fears of the Ukraine's nuclear potential by pointing out that the weapons were under central control.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin cautioned that republics not joining a political union would have to pay world market prices for goods and services.

G-15 summit: Focus on development

INDIA has succeeded in incorporating its views on the importance of giving primacy to development over human rights and democracy in the joint communique issued by the leaders of the Group of 15 developing countries at the end of their summit on November 30.

The Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, explained the importance of development in the present international situation during an informal session.

The communique noted that

"while we advance support to democracy, human rights and the rule of law, we need to ensure that development remains at the centre of international attention". Without this central element any vision of the future world would necessarily remain incomplete for developing countries and would jeopardise the very attainment of these objectives.

The communique noted that illicit drug trafficking brought with it problems of illegal production, transport and consumption which are increasingly affecting the developing countries.

The G-15 leaders underlined the need to intensify efforts to reduce the high levels of illegal drug consumption in all countries. The leaders emphasised that the developing countries had the greatest responsibility for establishing environmentally sustainable development in the world and should consequently contribute the largest resources for international cooperation in this field.

Elaborating on the theme of environment, the communique hoped that the forthcoming UN Conference on Environment and Development, scheduled to be held in Brazil next June, would provide a historic opportunity to consider these issues in an integrated comprehensive and balanced manner.

On South-South cooperation, some new points have been made. The G-15 leaders called for cooperation arrangements among South countries in the fields of education, and public health, saying these could go a long way in achieving the objectives of a healthy and literate population.

The joint communique also made a direct suggestion on the role of the UN by suggesting that the world body should be reformed to increase its efficiency and effectiveness so that it could adapt to the new international situation. Strengthening of the UN should be based on the recognition that the management of world affairs was a matter of shared responsibility and not the exclusive prerogative of a few States.

Meanwhile, the G-15 is to be ex-

panded with the addition of one more country from Asia and one from West Asia (which for this purpose is treated as a separate region).

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said on returning to Delhi on December 1 that the developing countries should take advantage of "the changed and more positive approach" of the industrialised nations in solving the economic ills afflicting the world.

Mr Rao emphasised that the North and the South should give up the confrontationalist approach and adopt a cooperative attitude for the overall good of humankind. He warned that confrontation would prove detrimental to the developing nations. "This is essential to find solutions to their economic problems."

India-UK pact on terrorism

INDIA and Britain are to conclude a bilateral agreement soon, allowing the seizure of funds operated in Britain by anti-Indian terrorists. An announcement to this effect was made in the British Parliament by Foreign Office Minister Tristan Garel Jones.

News of the agreement which would mark a high point in bilateral relations came after British Prime Minister John Major had assured India that Britain would move its European partners to combat terrorism aimed against India.

The announcement, made on Nov 29, was coupled with a strong backing to India's attempts at curbing terrorism in Punjab and a rebuke to Pakistan for providing what was called material support from its territory to Sikh extremists in Punjab.

The bilateral agreement would flow from Britain's Prevention of Terrorism Act and following firm steps taken by the Conservative Government in punishing Khalistan terrorists in Britain. The agreement which had been under negotiation for two months, would help check the collection of funds for terrorist purposes inside gurdwaras in Britain.

The Foreign Office Minister urged the Sikhs in Britain to "deny

moral and financial support" to organisations which promoted terrorist violence in India and said Pakistan too should play its part.

Pak firm on N-Plan

PAKISTAN has conveyed to the USA that it would not compromise on its nuclear programme under pressure from any quarter. The nuclear issue came up during discussions between the visiting US Under-Secretary of State for International Security, Mr Reginald Bartholomew and Pakistani leaders in Islamabad.

Mr Bartholomew held wide-ranging talks with Pakistani officials on the country's nuclear programme, besides touching on the entire gamut of Pak-US relations, which have come under strain.

The Bush Administration had, in October last year, suspended military and economic aid of about \$ 560 million to Pakistan on the suspicion that it had developed a nuclear bomb. President Bush had failed to certify to the Congress that Pakistan did not possess nuclear weapons as mandated by the Pressler Amendment. Islamabad has denied such reports, saying its nuclear programme is only for peaceful purposes.

Pak advised not to aid militants

THE United States has asked Pakistan not to be tempted to provide "aid and sustenance to militants" for disruptive activities in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. This was conveyed by the US to the then Foreign Secretary, Mr Muchkund Dubey, and the External Affairs Minister, Mr Madhavsinh Solanki, during discussions in the third week of November, 1991.

Washington fully appreciated that abetment of terrorism would lead to heightening of tension and have a major impact on the security of the region.

Pak advised restraint: The European Community has asked Pakistan to take effective steps to prevent any violent interference in Kashmir from the territory under its control. Urging India and Pakistan not to take any action that could

result in increasing tensions in the region, it said the terrorist violence must be resisted but at the same time Indian security forces must "respect law".

The community hopes that "favourable conditions will be created to enable the people of Kashmir to enjoy their fundamental rights in an atmosphere of peace and harmony".

Crackdown on PPP

SEVERAL hundred members of Ms Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party were arrested in Sindh province, triggering a nationwide protest against the Sharif and Sind governments. Over 2,000 PPP activists were apprehended as the Provincial administration continued its action. Reports said scores of PPP members had gone underground to avoid arrests.

Signs of a possible crackdown on PPP came when the Sind Chief Minister, Mr Jam Sadiq Ali, stated that he was taking stern action against the PPP which, contended, was an anti-national party and deserved the punishment meant for traitors.

He further alleged that Begum Nusrat Bhutto and Ms Benazir Bhutto were associated with the activities of the terrorist group, Al Zulfiqar. Mr Ali claimed he had evidence in the form of video films and statements of terrorists, testifying that Begum Bhutto was in-charge of Al Zulfiqar in Pakistan while Ms Bhutto was the "operational head".

It is said about Al Zulfiqar that when Gen Zia hanged former Pakistan Premier, Z.A. Bhutto, his sons formed this organisation to take revenge. But the Bhutto family has denied having any links with this group.

Condemning the arrests, Begum Nusrat Bhutto labelled Mr Jam Sadiq Ali as a "terrorist" and the attack on her party tantamounted to an attack on the people of Pakistan.

Observers said the action against the PPP could be a fall-out of the recent statements by the Bhutto ladies accusing the President of abuse of office and demanding his resigna-

tion.

Big two cut arms aid to Kabul

WASHINGTON and Moscow will cut military aid to their respective clients in Afghanistan from January 1, but the Jihad or holy war is likely to range on, fuelled by funds from Arab donors, according to the American news magazine "Newsweek".

The magazine says rebel hardliners are vowing to fight on until they realise their dream of an Islamic State, and the town of Khost offers a revealing glimpse of Afghanistan's future, half a year after its capture by Muslim guerillas.

Deprived of its Kremlin patrons, the Najibullah Government is on the defensive. Both sides are suspicious of peace overtures. The Mujahideens are in no mood to compromise. They are inspired by the Soviet withdrawal, from the country, which is viewed by many Muslims as Islam's greatest modern day victory. That success is attracting new funds through a shadowy network of wealthy Arab donors. These private backers are now bankrolling specific battles and supporting an influx of non-Afghan Muslim volunteers, ready to martyr themselves for the rebel cause.

Splits in the rebel ranks further undermine any chance that the 13-year-old civil war will end soon. The main political leaders, known as the "Peshawar Seven", are sharply divided between moderates and fundamentalists. Three of the fundamentalists refused even to attend a recent Moscow meeting.

One of them was the radical Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who has clashed violently with the other Mujahideen chiefs. Pakistan routes one-third of US aid to Hekmatyar who is recruiting new patrons in Libya, Sudan and Egypt. He may sabotage any peace formula unless his demands for key government posts are satisfied.

Change in U.S. Policy

A new phase of U.S.A.'s security policy in respect of the Asia-Pacific region seems to have been

chalked out. For instance, the handing over of the Clark air base, the largest US air base overseas, to Philippines at the end of November, 1991 represents a change in US security perceptions in the region following the end of the Cold War.

However, the Philippines government led by Ms Corazon Aquino has been facing stiff resistance against signing a new treaty with the US from a section of Senators in the Philippine Congress. The Philippines has long been reliant upon the US for trade, aid and military support. The US forces stationed in the Philippines have played a major external security role and disaster relief role that the Philippines government will now have to finance and organise itself.

The Philippine government still has to confront the problem of the communist rebellion, although the armed forces seem to have gained an upper hand over the rebels, they said. However, if the Philippines becomes less important strategically to the US, then military aid may be reduced.

Moreover, the Philippines has a massive debt burden and a burgeoning population. The US bases are, after the Philippines Government, the second largest employer of Filipinos. Any country which faces the prospect of its second largest employing industry closing down its operations would be facing an economic disaster experts said.

If the US, for its own strategic reasons, or as a result of its frustration with the Philippine political process, decides to leave the country completely, then the Philippine government will lose its leverage in Washington. That leverage is crucial to gain aid from the U.S.

The major US bases in Philippines—Clark air base and Subic naval base—have helped the US undertake several military missions in the region. The bases provided continuous American air and naval presence in the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean region without having to return to the US for periodic main-

tenance.

Military Pact in Cambodia

A guerilla group and the Vietnamese-installed government formed a military alliance on Nov 25 to help oversee a ceasefire agreed to earlier in Cambodia's civil war. The commander acknowledged that the powerful Khmer Rouge guerilla army had not been informed in advance, and diplomats have expressed concern that the new alliance could upset the fragile peace.

The pact was signed in Phnom Penh by senior military commanders from the Government of Premier Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Ranariddh's guerilla faction. The two factions were joined in October by the Khmer Rouge and another guerilla group, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, in signing a UN-brokered peace accord in Paris, ending 13 years of civil war.

Mr Ranariddh's army had been in a loose coalition with the two other guerilla groups fighting the Government. But the Prince's faction announced it would join the Phnom Penh administration to form a new coalition government soon.

The military pact calls for removing land mines from roads, free travel in each other's zones, and the establishment of permanent military posts in each other's territory.

"The United Nations is not here yet to control the cease-fire, so we have initiated it ourselves", said Gen Kruoch Yeum, Deputy Chief of Staff of Ranariddh's army. "We want to build a better political atmosphere in accordance with the signing of the UN peace plan." The Khmer Rouge is the largest guerilla group. It killed hundred of thousands of people in a fanatical communist rule during 1970 before Vietnamese forces toppled it and installed the current government.

Some western diplomats have expressed concern that the new alliance could upset the fragile peace agreement, which is based on reconciliation among all four

factions.

14th truce—most extensive yet

SERBIAN and Croat leaders signed yet another cease-fire agreement (their 14th) on November 24 through the good offices of the UN special emissary, Mr Cyrus Vance, former US Secretary of State. The cease-fire was almost immediately violated and Serbian-controlled army units resumed their offensive.

In the continuing battle the inhabitants of Vukovar have now been replaced by those trapped in Osijek, just north west of Vukovar, as the federal troops pushed ahead with their decision to capture as much of Croatian territory as possible. "Federal troops have encircled the town. As in Vukovar, they plan to slowly starve and terrorise the population into surrender", said a Croat teacher.

However, the latest cease-fire agreement signed by the Presidents of Croatia and Serbia as well as by the Federal Defence Minister, is the most exhaustive and restrictive yet. The text calls for the lifting of the siege around federal barracks in Croatia, the immediate withdrawal of the entrapped federal troops from Croatia and an unconditional cease-fire which for the first time, is made binding on para-military forces and militiamen on both sides.

The bitter fighting that has been underway for the past several months as the EC wrung its hands in despair, has only sharpened the political realities in Yugoslavia, giving rise to murderous, extremist, politico-military grouping that feeds on hatred.

"Save republic" call to U.N.: Croatia's President, faced with growing domestic turmoil and desperation on the battlefield, appealed for UN peace-keepers to save his republic in the last week of U.N. mediated talks on ending the civil war intensified with the unexpected arrival of a European Community envoy, and there were signs that Croatia and its arch foe Serbia were edging towards agreement on the

deployment of peace-keepers.

Federal forces agreed to leave their barracks in the Zagreb area within 15 days and to lift their blockade of Adriatic ports. But in the bombed-out eastern region of Croatia, fighting intensified, giving the appearance that the army and Serbia were making a last grab for territory before beginning negotiations in earnest on Croatia's separation from the Yugoslav federation.

The Croatian President, Mr Franjo Tudjman, in a letter to world leaders, charged that the Serbian side is undertaking new offensive in order to occupy Croatian cities within the next 25 days figuring that the arrival of peace-keeping forces will take approximately one month.

"That exposes the entire Croatian nation to potential total destruction and the loss of further tens of thousands of lives", he said. He appealed for the immediate despatch of peace-keepers.

Differences: Although both Serbia and Croatia have welcomed the idea of peace-keepers, they differ over where they should be deployed.

Serbia, which charges that ethnic Serbs would face persecution if Croatia is allowed independence, wants peace-keepers to separate ethnic groups on Croatian territory. Croatia, which accuses Serbia of making a grab for territory, wants peace-keepers on the official border between the two republics. Serb-led forces have seized about a third of Croatia since the fighting began.

Financial crisis in U.N.

THE United Nations coffers are empty. The Secretary-General has proposed tough new financial strictures to discipline members who do not pay their assessments in time. The United Nations body started December with almost no cash in its coffers to pay even the salary of its employees.

In a report to the General Assembly, he had suggested charging interest at the commercial rate on the unpaid assessment on regular budget, peace-keeping operations

and working capital. Simultaneously, he urged for authorising the United Nations to borrow commercially to tide over the financial crisis.

At present, several specialised agencies including the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and UNESCO, have the authority to borrow commercially and have exercised it frequently. But so far such a request from the United Nations Secretary-General has always been declined by the General Assembly on the ground that it would burden member-States.

To counteract the General Assembly's concern, the Secretary-General suggested charging interest at commercial rate on unpaid assessments. Among other measures proposed are establishment of a peace-keeping reserve fund, increase in working capital and establishment of a revolving fund for humanitarian aid.

B'desh "abetting" militant groups

SEVERAL international militant groups are being given facilities in neighbouring countries, "primarily Bangladesh", for waging an armed struggle against India, Border Security Force Director-General T.A. Chari disclosed on November 30. The Pakistani attitude in fanning terrorist and disruptive activities in the country has become "more open".

There is a certain degree of openness in the Pakistan attitude as revealed during the flag meetings vis-a-vis the problem of terrorism. We are reaching a stage where they (the Pakistanis) would tell us bluntly that "yes, we are abetting terrorism in your country and you do what you can do", the BSF chief said.

The eastern border was "active" and Bangladesh was increasingly giving sanctuary and other support to anti-national groups of the north-east. It is learnt that border fencing had proved to be extremely effective, particularly in Punjab.

Mr Chari emphatically denied allegations of the BSF men conniving with smugglers on the international

border for monetary considerations.

The BSF was raised in 1965. This largest central police force (whose strength is not disclosed and kept a secret) has been guarding 7557 km of international border. The break-up of the international border guarded by the BSF is as follows; 3310 km with Pakistan, 4095 km with Bangladesh and 151 km with Myanmar.

Arabs' new Strategy

THE Arab camp participating in the peace talks with Israel is preoccupied with differing strategies in its approach. These differences remain largely focussed on procedural matters. But Arab diplomats say they reflect deeper discord on fundamental issues between Syria and Lebanon and between Syria and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the talks.

The inter-Arab disagreements also reflect the fundamental realignment of power that followed the Gulf war, with leading Arab countries such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia backing a strong American role in the region. Syria and other anti-Western Arab governments reluctantly followed the Egyptian and Saudi lead for lack of alternative policies.

Within the Palestinian camp also there is a subtle shift of authority and clout from the Palestine Liberation Organisation leadership in Tunis to the negotiators who represent Palestinians living under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Palestinian negotiators seem most eager to forge ahead with the talks in order to bring about a freeze on Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. Syria, which for years was bent on eliminating the Tunis-based PLO leadership from any role in determining Palestinian destiny, now finds itself in the awkward position of wooing Mr Arafat to coordinate his policies with Damascus.

The overall Arab strategy in the talks, as seen in Cairo and Riyadh, is that the Arabs must continue to appear to side with Washington and that they must exploit what many see as a growing split between Israel and the U.S.

Appointments Etc

Appointed; Elected Etc

Frederick Chiluba: He has been elected as the President of Zambia. He defeated Kenneth Kaunda, who had ruled Zambia since independence 27 years ago.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk: He has been restored as Cambodia's head of state until Presidential elections are held in 1993. Mr Sihanouk, who abdicated the Cambodian throne in 1955, was driven out from power in 1970 by a coup led by Lon Nol.

Zeid Ibn Shaker: He has been appointed as Prime Minister of Jordan.

Alfonso De Los Heros: He has been appointed as Prime Minister of Peru.

Boutros Boutros-Ghali: Deputy Prime Minister of Egypt, he has been elected as the Secretary General of United Nations. He succeeds Mr Peres de Cuellar of Peru. Mr Ghali is the first Afro-Arab to hold the post.

Justice M.H. Kania: He has been appointed the new Chief Justice of India.

J.N. Dixit: He has been appointed as India's Foreign Secretary. He succeeds Mr Muchkund Dubey.

Ashok Desai: An eminent economist, he has been appointed Chief Economic consultant to the Government of India.

Sadasiva Sivaswami: He has been appointed India's Ambassador to Lebanon.

Sir Nicholas Fenn: He is new British High Commissioner to India.

Chakra Prasad Bastola: He is the new Ambassador of Nepal to India.

Mohammed el Hedi Ben Rejeb: He is the new Ambassador of Tunisia to India.

Ms Marie Bernard-Meunier: She has been appointed as the first woman head of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Resigned/Sacked

A. Croatian: President of Yugoslavia.

Carlos Torres Y. Torres Lara: He was sacked as Prime Minister of Peru by President, Mr Alberto Fujimori.

Distinguished Visitors

Li Peng: Prime Minister of China.

Robert G. Mugabe: President of Zimbabwe.

G.P. Koirala: Prime Minister of Nepal.

Jurgen W. Mollemann: German Minister of Economics.

Wong Kan Seng: Foreign Minister of Singapore.

Reginale Bartholomew: U.S. Under-Secretary of State for International Affairs.

Abdul Zamil: Industries Minister of Saudi Arabia.

Fataullah Jameel: Foreign Minister of Maldives.

Dr Hans Blix: Director, International Atomic Energy Agency.

Died

Bemal Mitra: One of the most prominent litterateurs of India and a leading figure in Bengali literary spheres. He was 80.

sentatives to the Lok Sabha and 57 to various State Assemblies.

17—Khmer Rouge returns to Cambodia.

20—Entire Punjab is declared disturbed.

22—The Supreme Court declares "unconstitutional" the ordinance promulgated by the Karnataka government to deny Cauvery waters to Tamil Nadu.

—Atleast 61 persons are killed in a Chemical tanker blast in Wedwan village in Thane district of Maharashtra.

25—Justice K.N. Singh is sworn-in as the Chief Justice of India. His tenure would be of 18 days.

26—Mr Liviu Radu, the Romanian charge D'affaires is released by the Punjab militants after 48 days captivity.

27—The second Summit of the G-15 developing countries starts at Caracas, Venezuela.

29—The banking and insurance sectors are virtually paralysed and air and train services disturbed due to the one-day industrial strike called by six Central Trade Unions.

DECEMBER

1—Pondicherry becomes the first Union Territory of India to be declared fully literate.

—About 70 per cent of the 37 million Ukrainian voters vote in favour of independence.

5—Militants kill 26 people in Tohana near Hissar in Haryana.

7—At least 30 persons are feared killed and over 80 injured in a train accident at Jawali in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh.

9—The 22-month United Legislature Front Ministry, headed by Mr R.K. Ranbir Singh, wins a confidence motion by voice vote in the special one-day session of the Manipur assembly called for a trial of strength.

10—European Community leaders, at a summit held at Maastricht, Netherlands, reach an accord on single currency.

—Lok Sabha okays Central rule in Meghalaya.

EVENTS

NOVEMBER

12—By a 3 : 2 verdict, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court upholds the validity of the anti-defection law but maintains that the Speaker's order under the law was open to Judicial review.

14—Prince Norodom Sihanouk returns to Phnom Penh as Head of Cambodia's interim government, ending nearly thirteen years in exile.

16—Amid tight security, more than 20 million voters in 14 States go to polls to elect 15 repre-

SPORTS

GAMES

South East Asian Games

The 16th Southeast Asian Games closed in Manila on December 5, 1991 with Indonesia, tarnished by a drug scandal, defending their crown by the skin of their teeth, in sports competitions whose standards still fall below Asia's best.

Maria Lawalata ensured that Indonesia finished with 92 golds, one more than the Philippines, by dominating the women's marathon in two hours 51 minutes and nine seconds.

The hosts, aided by a successful swimming protest, had drawn level with 91 golds thanks to the games record-breaking run of men's marathon runner Herman Suizo, who breasted the tape after two hours 22 minutes and 52 seconds.

Thailand were third overall, Malaysia fourth, Singapore fifth, Burma sixth, Vietnam seventh, Brunei eighth, and Laos, which failed to win any medal, last.

A total of 56 standards were improved in the biennial event, which Indonesia have traditionally dominated, winning six previous overall titles.

On another front, the games were hit by a drug scandal, the current plague of international sports, and by the ever-present charges of biased officiating.

BADMINTON

Narang Cup

Maharashtra regained the Narang Cup for boys after a one-year gap, while Assam clinched the Shafi Qureshi Cup for girls for the first time in the 16th Junior National Badminton Championship played at Panaji, Goa.

BILLIARDS

Palm Beach World Masters Championship

India's Geet Sethi won the first professional title of his career as he

outgunned a fighting Norman Dagley of England 8-3 in the final of the Palm Beach World Masters Billiards Championship held at New Delhi.

Twenty-eight-year old Sethi, twice world amateur champion, played many innovative shots to win 8-3 after leading 4-2 in the first session of six frames.

It took four hours for Sethi, who had turned pro after 1987 world amateur title win, to tame the 56-year-old veteran—the only player in the world to have won a grand slam bagging the world, European and English titles.

Sethi also won a trophy for the highest break—his 153 in the semi-final match against Michael Ferreira.

BOXING

Sixth World Amateur Championships

Juan Lemus and Roberto Balado made certain Cuba left the sixth amateur boxing championships as world champions with gold-medal victories on the final day.

Cuba finished with four golds, two silver and three bronze for a total of nine medals from their 12-man contingent.

Bulgaria were a surprise runner-up to the Cubans, with two golds, a silver and two bronze medals.

Unified for the first time at these championships, Germany were third with two golds, a silver and a bronze, followed by the Soviet Union, a gold, four silver and two bronze. The Americans were a disappointing fifth with a gold, silver and bronze.

CRICKET

Australia-India test series

India needed a miracle. Either from the players or from the weather. Neither obliged and the first Test of the 1991-92 series proceeded

serenely towards a predictable end. Australia won by ten wickets.

The match was played at Brisbane.

Kapil Equals Botham's Record

Kapil Dev's four for 90 in the first innings of the first test match of 1991-92 series against Australia put him level, at 380, with England's Ian Botham as the second highest wicket-taker in Test cricket. Sir Richard Hadlee, now retired, leads the field with 423.

Pakistan-West Indies one-day series

The West Indies won the three match one-day series 2-0, beating Pakistan by 17 runs in the final international at the Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad.

The West Indies had won the first one dayer at Karachi by 24 runs while the second match at Lahore had been declared a tie.

The West Indies scored 204 for five in 40 overs and restricted the home team to 187 for eight in 40 overs.

India-South Africa one-day series

The top-order batsmen clicked and the mainline bowlers did a highly competent job to see India wrap up the three-match one-day series against South Africa by winning the second international by 38 runs at Gwalior.

The first one-day international was played at Calcutta and was won by India. This match marked the entry of South Africa into the international fold after being banned for 21 years for the apartheid policies of the government of South Africa.

The third match, played at New Delhi, was won by South Africa.

FOOTBALL

Women's world Championship

The largest crowd in the history of women's football saw the United

States snatch a last ditch goal to beat Norway 2-1 in the final of the inaugural FIFA Women's Cup held in China.

Fittingly it was left to Michelle Akers-Stahi, the tournament's leading scorer, to decide the match, coolly rounding the Norwegian goalkeeper in the 77th minute to slot home the United States second goal and her ninth of the Competition.

Akers-Stahi had also broken the initial deadlock after 20 minutes of the first half, rising above the Norwegian defence to head home a perfectly weighted free kick from Shannan Higgins.

But Norway were quick to strike back drawing level, eight minutes after, following a mix-up in the American defence

DCM Cup

Iran's Pas Club lifted coveted DCM Football Cup after they registered a solitary goal victory to snuff out Mohun Bagan's hopes of preventing the trophy from being going abroad for the eighth time in a row.

Winger Akbar Yousefi scored the golden goal in the 24th minute to preserve a two-decade-old tradition of no Iranian team ever losing the cup.

Rovers Cup

Annappa Kumar opened the door for Chima Okerie to strike the only goal of the final of the Lifebouy Rovers Cup football tournament and help Mohun Bagan to gain their 12th success. Mohun Bagan defeated Mohammedan sporting.

HOCKEY

4th Indira Gandhi International Women's tournament

Soviet Union defeated Asian Games champions South Korea 3-1 to win the fourth Indira Gandhi International women's hockey tournament held at Chandigarh.

In an earlier match, hosts India finished fourth, losing 1-2 to holders China.

Nehru Cup

Punjab and Sind Bank got their name inscribed on the handsome

Nehru Cup with a solitary second half goal victory over Indian Hockey Federation Juniors in the final held in New Delhi.

Surjit Singh Memorial tournament

ASC Jalandhar lifted the Surjit Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament trophy defeating Punjab State Electricity Board, Patiala, by 2-0.

SWIMMING

National Aquatics Championships

Formidable Railways and Karnataka were declared joint-overall winners in the 47th Senior National Aquatics Championship which concluded at Trichur on November 9, 1991.

Both teams finished the championship with 147 points.

Railways retained the men's team title with ease, while Lorraine Verghese led Karnataka to regain the women's team title.

Railwaymen and Bengal women retained their water polo titles.

Railways downed Maharashtra 5-3, while West Bengal women edged out Kerala 4-3.

TABLE TENNIS

India Cup Championship

National champion Kamlesh Mehta stamped his superiority over young challenger Chetan Baboor for the fourth time running this season with an emphatic 18-21, 21-10, 21-15, 21-15 win in the men's singles final of the India Cup table-tennis championship played at Bombay.

Bombay's Niyati Shah recorded her fourth victory in five matches in the six-woman round-robin by defeating Monalisa Mehta in her last league match to finish on top.

Northern India tournament

Blocking with great effect, Tamil Nadu left-hander S. Raman upstaged national champion Kamlesh Mehta to win the men's singles title in the Tirupati Texknit Northern India table tennis tournament at the NDMC indoor stadium, New Delhi.

Ambika Radhika of Railways recovered from a game down to

claim her third successive women's singles title of the season, defeating M.S. Mythili of Indian Airlines.

TENNIS

Davis Cup, 1991

Guy Forget, riding on a wave of patriotic emotion, earned France their first Davis Cup title in more than half a century on December 1 when he beat Pete Sampras in the first of the reverse singles.

Roared on by 8,000 fanatical French fans in Lyon's Palais Des Sports, Forget outgunned Sampras 7-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to give his team an unbeatable 3-1 lead over the US, the defending champions.

France, who had not won the Davis Cup since 1932, started the tie as clear underdogs against the holders.

ATP tour world championship

American Pete Sampras showed courage as well as class to clinch the ATP Tour World Championship with a 3-6, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Jim Courier.

Virginia Slims Championships

World number one and defending champion Monica Seles overcame a vintage performance by Martina Navratilova to win the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships 6-4, 3-6, 7-5, 6-0.

Paris Open

Guy Forget rallied from a set down to beat Pete Sampras 7-6 (11-9), 4-6, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 to win the \$ 2 million Paris Open.

Forget got the decisive break in the final game of the three-hour and 45-minute match when Sampras committed three unforced errors to give his French opponent two break points.

Navratilova makes tennis history

Martina Navratilova made tennis history when she defeated top-ranked Monica Seles 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, in the \$ 350,000 California Virginia Slims final for her 157th tournament title.

Navratilova matched the 157 tournaments titles won by Chris Evert during her career.

Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

APEC: Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Group.

GPS: Global Positioning System.

SNC: The Supreme National Council.

SWIFT: Society for World-wide Interbank Financial Telecommunication.

AWARDS

Jawaharlal Nehru award for International Understanding, 1990

GERMAN Chancellor, Mr Helmut Kohl has been awarded the 1990 Jawaharlal Nehru award for International Understanding. Mr Kohl, who has been the chancellor of West Germany since 1982, has also had the honour of becoming the first chancellor of the United Germany.

Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puruskar (Environment award) 1991

THE Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puruskar (Environment award) for 1991 has been given to noted industrialist Mr S.P. Godrej in recognition of the contribution in the field of environment.

The award carries Rs one lakh in cash.

In the category of organisations, the award has gone to Dasholi Gram Swarajya Mandal of Gopeshwar (Uttar Pradesh). It has done pioneering work in the *Chipko* movement and has been instrumental in involving women in managing forest resources.

BOOKS

Freedom from Fear and other Writings

THIS is a collection of writings by Nobel Peace Prize winner San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader of Myanmar (Burma) who has been under house arrest for last two

years.

In the book Ms Suu Kyi discusses the history of Burmese struggle for independence, the history of her country and how modern political ideas have been adapted by the people of Myanmar. In one chapter she compares India and Burma's experience with colonialism.

DEFENCE

Breakthrough by defence scientists in laser technology

DEFENCE scientists have made a breakthrough in indigenous development of laser guidance technology paving the way for rapid modernisation of weapons systems. Laser guidance will help precision bombing by missiles and bombers thereby greatly improving the striking power of the Indian Air Force.

The landmark achievement has been made by scientists at the Instruments Research and Development Establishment (IRDE), one of the institutes under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The 31-year old IRDE is the single major equipment oriented laboratory within DRDO which designs, develops and produces precision instruments for all three defence services.

The IRDE laser guidance has two components: a hand-held laser "designator" that will illuminate a target far away, and a "seeker" attached to airdropped bomb that will detect the reflected laser light and guide the bomb right on target. IRDE has already tested the components and the integrated system will be ready for user trial in December 1991.

The institute has also developed laser altitude switch (LAS) that is designed to explode the missile warhead between 35 and 45 metres above the surface to cause maximum

damage.

The LAS was successfully tested from helicopter and an aerial ropeway in the Mussourie hills and will undergo the real test probably during the next test flight of *Prithvi*.

Satellite pictures for defence

PICTURES from the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS) are being used in a high-priority defence project that will soon usher India into the era of satellite reconnaissance.

A computerised system with "vision and intelligence" that will be able to identify military targets from satellite pictures is in advance stage of development at the Defence Electronics and Applications Laboratory (DEAL), Dehradun.

The system is being set up "to process and interpret aircraft and satellite data using image analysis and pattern recognition techniques."

India does not have—nor proposes to launch—spy satellites that can take high-resolution pictures showing ground objects in great detail. This has not deterred scientists in DEAL, who have successfully developed a system that can make out objects of military interest from pictures of low clarity sent back by remote-sensing satellite such as IRS.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

BARC develops nuclear camera

Anuclear camera developed by scientists of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Bombay has diverse applications in aerospace, ordinance, metallurgy and biology in addition to nuclear fields.

The camera takes pictures of objects in great detail using a beam of nuclear particles called neutrons. Such pictures are more useful, in certain situations, than those taken with X-rays.

Work on the camera, which

started as a scientific curiosity, has now culminated in a full-fledged system that can be used in non-destructive testing.

The nuclear camera has been functioning at the swimming pool reactor "Apsara" in Trombay.

PERSONS

Ghali, Boutros Boutros

MR Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Deputy Prime Minister of Egypt, has become the first Afro-Arab to become the Secretary General of United Nations.

69-year-old Mr Ghali becomes the sixth chief of the 46-year-old world body.

He is a French-educated scion of a prominent coptic family who was propelled on the international scene by former President of Egypt, Mr Anwar Sadat, during the 1977 peace initiative. He has come to represent Egyptian diplomacy abroad, although he only held the foreign minister position on an interim basis (under an unspoken rule of Egyptian politics, the foreign ministry goes to Muslims, who are the majority in the country).

He obtained a doctorate in international law from Paris University following studies at Cairo University. He began his career as a law professor and journalist before entering the government, where he has served for the past 14 years.

He is an expert on north-south problems and is internationally recognised as one of the most knowledgeable experts on Africa.

Kania, M.H.

JUSTICE M.H. Kania is the new Chief Justice of India. He was sworn-in as the 23rd Chief Justice of India. He succeeded Mr Justice K.N. Singh.

Mr Justice Kania is nephew of the first chief justice of India, Mr Justice H.J. Kania. He is the fifth Judicial officer from Maharashtra to occupy the office.

He was born on November 18, 1927. He had his education in Bom-

bay. He enrolled as an advocate of the Bombay High Court on November 1, 1949 and practised mainly in civil suits and commercial matters.

Kohl, Dr Helmut

GERMAN Chancellor Dr Helmut Kohl is the recipient of the 1990 Jawaharlal Nehru award for international understanding.

Dr Kohl who was Chancellor of West Germany since 1982 has also had the honour of becoming the first Chancellor of the re-united Germany. He is one of the outstanding statesmen of post-war Germany, with a political career spanning 44 years.

He has had a distinguished and varied academic career, having studied law, sociology, political science and history in the universities of Frankfurt and Heidelberg.

He was the main architect of the peaceful and democratic re-unification of Germany, an event which symbolised the beginning of a new era in the history of Europe.

RESEARCH

World's smallest laser

BELL Laboratories, USA, have announced that they have produced the world's smallest lasers that may one day simplify the manufacture of a new generation of ultrafast computers controlled by beams of light.

The technology may also have other applications, including building sensitive artificial vision system, that could operate in a manner similar to the human retina.

The new lasers look like microscopic thumbtacks whose round tops emit piercing beams of light. They can be made in arrays by the same process that is used to make modern semiconductor chips, thus making them economical.

To get computing speeds about a billion cycles per second, optics will play a major part. The question is whether these technologies will be cost effective?

Cipla launches anti-cancer drug

CIPLA Ltd has achieved a major breakthrough in cancer therapy by launching on indigenous

manufacture of the vital cancer treatment drug, etoposide.

The breakthrough by Cipla is significant because very few companies in the world have the technological competence to synthesise the etoposide molecule—a complex multistage process which calls for highly advanced technology with great precision.

Etoposide is considered the most vital drug in cancer chemotherapy, thanks to its unique mechanism of action and proven efficacy in controlling the multiplication of a wide range of malignant cancer cells.

Cipla scientists achieved the breakthrough in close collaboration with the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad.

The human side of this breakthrough is the dual benefit it brings to cancer patients in India, since doctors and patients in this country can now rely on uninterrupted therapy. In fact, the Cipla manufactured drug is already in use in the main Indian medical institutes treating cancer. Cipla's scale of production not only meets Indian requirements in toto but can also meet export orders.

The Cipla etoposide is being made available at Rs 210 per vial as against the price of Rs 410 per vial, of the imported medicine. In practice, even at this price the imported etoposide, largely imported from Israel and Japan, is scarce and is often sold at Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,400 a vial by dealers.

SPACE RESEARCH

Hubble makes a baffling discovery

THE Hubble telescope has made the startling discovery that the cosmos is strewn with vast intergalactic hydrogen clouds, putting to doubt the premise of the universally accepted Big Bang Theory that such clouds have all disappeared

According to the Big Bang Theory, primordial clouds of hydrogen, created in the original big bang 15 billion years ago, have long since collected into stars and galaxies, leaving most, if not all, of

the gases to diffuse evenly throughout the space.

The Hubble telescope has detected up to 10 times the expected number of clouds near earth's Milky Way galaxy. They are apparently everywhere in today's cosmos, and in about the same abundance as 10 to 12 billion years ago.

According to scientists, one possibility is that they are held together by the gravity of some invisible "dark matter" inside them. Another is that they are surrounded by an intensely hot but equally thin and invisible gaseous medium that exerts exactly the right amount of pressure to contain them without squashing them.

The result raises at least two big possibilities. There may be some new component in the universe or it is possible these clouds are relatively new and there is something that we can't begin to understand that is producing them.

A planet outside the solar system?

B RITISH scientists believe they have detected an orbiting object that is certainly the first planet to be found outside the solar system.

Regular variations in the signals from a particular pulsar, a dense neutron star that is a powerful source of radio pulses, were first noticed during observations by Manchester university researchers.

They reveal that the neutron star moves repeatedly hundreds of kilometres nearer and further away in a manner that suggests it is influenced by a planetary companion body, estimated to be about ten times bigger than the earth.

Pulsars represent the end phase in the life cycle of stars that were originally much more massive than our sun. They rotate and have a powerful magnetic dipolar field which swings through space like a lighthouse beam. Each time a beam sweeps earth, radio telescopes detect a pulse of radiation.

When it was discovered that pulsar PSR 1829-10, located some 20,000 to 30,000 light years away near the centre of the Milky Way galaxy, was

producing a cyclical signal, detailed analysis of the changes in the arrival time of its signals on earth suggested a to-and-fro movement of the type seen when pairs of stars known as binaries orbit the centre of their combined mass.

While it is not considered possible that life forms exist on the newly-discovered planet, which would be exposed to gamma and other harmful radiation, it does give new hope that more planets could exist, some of which could offer conditions suitable for the existence of life.

There is also a hint in the evidence gathered so far that there may be another planet in the PSR 1829-10 system, and the team aims to confirm this by further studies.

MISCELLANY

Abuja to be new Nigerian capital

A BUJA is to be the new administrative capital of Nigeria.

The Nigerian authorities have decided to make Abuja the capital of Nigeria due to its central location and to relieve the pressure of Lagos, located in the southern Nigeria, which has become a congested town.

New avenues of learning for the blind

W HEN Louis Braille introduced the Braille script in 1829, which after modifications was universally accepted in 1932, few windows of learning were opened for the blind. But, with the advent of Desk Top Publishing (DTP), a whole new world of learning has been opened up.

A special software, developed by a private institute, recognised as a research and development unit by the directorate of scientific and industrial research Pune, enables the composed text of any book, which is being prepared for a person with sight, to be converted into Braille.

Later, using laser printer a master is created which can be used to print raised Braille characters.

Using this method all printed literature could be simultaneously

printed both for people with sight as well as for the blind.

The conventional method entails the use of only one surface of the sheet, thereby increasing the bulkiness of the book. In a DTP unit, coupled with thermography, both the sides of the paper can be used to achieve the raised dot pattern in Braille.

India joins global banking computer network

I NDIA has joined a worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication Network.

The Indian network of the Belgium based Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) was first conceived in 1982 by Indian Bank's Association (IBA).

Twenty-six of the country's leading banks and 11 branch offices of foreign banks are being linked to the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) global computer network that allows financial institutions around the world to do business with each other using standardised message types that provide a common language.

The network carries more than 1.50 million messages a day that relate to a wide range of banking transactions, including customer and bank transfers, documentary credits and travellers' cheques.

With this, banks in India will join more than 3,000 financial institutions around the world using the SWIFT network. The first to be connected to the network will be the State Bank of India.

Initially a single branch of each bank in Bombay was being connected to the SWIFT global network, but in the course of time more terminals would be added at other remote centres to connect the computer-based terminal in Bombay to facilitate faster communication of fund-based and other messages on the one hand and save cost on the other.

THE EXAMINER'S GUESS QUESTIONS

Q. In a landmark judgement in November 1991 the Supreme Court of India put an immediate ban on the employment of children in which trade?

Ans. *Beedi* manufacturing.

Q. What amount of grain was procured in 1990-91?

Ans. 23.73 million tonnes. This included about 11.07 million tonnes of wheat and nearly 12.66 million tonnes of rice.

The increase in grain procurement and distribution has pushed up food subsidy from Rs 710 crore in 1982-83 to a whopping Rs 2,600 crore in 1991-92.

Q. What does 'Operation Rakshak' relate to?

Ans. The security operation launched by the Army, along with the para-military and police force, in Punjab, in November 1991, to instill confidence among the people and create congenial atmosphere for holding free and fair elections by February 15, 1992 has been code named *Operation Rakshak*.

Q. What amount of loan was sanctioned by the World Bank, for India, in the first week of December 1991?

Ans. \$ 900 million. This structural adjustment loan is made up of \$ 450 million in a regular bank loan and \$ 450 million as a credit from IDA.

Q. In the Brisbane cricket Test match against Australia played in last week of November 1991 what record was made by Kapil Dev?

Ans. Kapil's 4 for 90 put him level, at 380, with England's Ian Botham as the second highest wicket-taker in Test cricket. Sir Richard Hadlee now retired, leads the field

with 423.

Q. Name the first Union Territory of India to be declared fully literate.

Ans. Pondicherry.

Q. What does 'Operation Warmth' relate to?

Ans. *Operation Warmth* was launched to provide urgent relief to the earthquake victims of Uttar Kashi in Uttar Pradesh in view of the onset of winter.

Q. The construction of which thermal power project has been blocked since 1984 following widespread claims that it would cause extensive damage to the Taj Mahal because of its close proximity and also endanger wildlife in the Van Vihar sanctuary on the Chambal river?

Ans. 750-MW Dholpur thermal power project of the Rajasthan government.

Q. Name the Romanian diplomat who was released by the Punjab militants after 49 days of captivity.

Ans. Liviu Radu.

Q. Name the member countries of G-15. Where was the 1991 summit of G-15 held?

Ans. Mexico, Jamaica, Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, Senegal, Algeria, Nigeria, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe, Egypt, India, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The 1991 summit was held at Caracas, capital of Venezuela.

Q. Who will be the leader of the eleventh Indian scientific expedition to Antarctica?

Ans. Dr S. Mukherji of the Geological Survey of India.

Q. Following the depreciation

of the Indian rupee, what is the present per capita debt of India?

Ans. Rs 1,500.

Before the devaluation, the per capita debt was Rs 1,200.

Q. Who is the new Secretary-General of UN?

Ans. Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt. He is the first person from Africa to hold this post. The only Asian ever to hold the post was U Thant of Burma, now Myanmar.

Q. Since the coming into force of the Constitution on January 26, 1950 till November 24, 1991 how many times President's rule has been promulgated?

Ans. 82 times in 23 States. Punjab was the first State where President's rule was necessitated. This was within two years of the commencement of the Constitution. The longest single spell of President's rule has also been in Punjab (more than four years).

Q. With which country is Khmer Rouge associated?

Ans. Cambodia.

Q. Name the Indian who has become the first Asian MP to enter the House of Commons, the Parliament of England?

Ans. Dr Ashok Kumar, a 35-year-old research scientist working for British Steel.

Q. Which general elections in India recorded highest and lowest turnover of voters?

Ans. The highest turnover was recorded in 1984 elections (64.1 per cent) and the lowest turnover was recorded in 1952 elections (45.7 per cent).

TEST OF REASONING—I

NUMBER SERIES

Find out the missing number for the following series:

1. 56, 56; 57; 59; . , 66.
2. 5; 6; 9; ...; 21, 30
3. 1; 3; 7; ...; 31, 63.
4. 6; 9; 8; 12; 10; ...; 12
5. 97; 96; 92, 83; ...; 42.
6. 11; 12; 13; 15; 15; . . ; 17; 21
7. 2, 3; 5; 6; 11; 30; 41; . .
8. 8; 7; 15; 22; . , 59, 96

Numbers in questions 9 to 12 follow a similar arrangement. Find out the missing ones.

9	25	16	9	10	9	8	11
	6	?	36		2	12	14
	19	26	5		?	8	3
11	81	6	28	12	49	3	?
	15	30	?		11	7	47
	19	79	17		5	55	5

LETTER SERIES

In questions given below, some letters have been left out leaving some gaps in the sequence. These letters have been given in that order as one of the four alternatives under it. Find the correct alternative in each case:

13. - abcbbc - cca - aab -
(a) cacb (b) aabc (c) acab (d) cabc
14. a - abaca - ac - b - cab
(a) cbaa (b) abca (c) cabc (d) cbcb
15. a - cbaabcb - a - cba - bcba
(a) bacb (b) cbca (c) abac (d) baba
16. ab - aba - cab - bcababca -
(a) cbab (b) abcb (c) acac (d) cbab
17. ca - acbc - cab - cb - a
(a) bcac (b) bacc (c) baac (d) cbaa

Find the odd-man out:

18. (a) BFDC (b) VZXW (c) KPML (d) QUSR
19. (a) PNQR (b) JGKL (c) TRUV (d) FDGH
20. (a) BIDU (b) CEPA (c) EPUO (d) ZAIX
21. (a) CPLTA (b) XWBCP (c) RSCMS (d) ZIPJF
22. (a) BRTY (b) FHMP (c) QSUX (d) KPWN

CODING-DECODING

Words in questions 23 to 28 are written in codes,

each letter written against a, b, c, d, e, f and g stands for one of the letters in the word. Your task is to tick-mark the letter that represents the letter of the word enclosed in the box.

23. P A I N I T E R
(a) f (b) b (c) s (d) p
(e) x (f) y (g) g
24. U R G E N C Y
(a) p (b) h (c) f (d) y
(e) v (f) k (g) q
25. D O L P H I N
(a) b (b) f (c) m (d) s
(e) z (f) j (g) w
26. R I N G L E T
(a) s (b) x (c) v (d) w
(e) p (f) f (g) y
27. M A C H I N E
(a) g (b) p (c) f (d) d
(e) q (f) s (g) j
28. D U R A B L E
(a) a (b) r (c) y (d) k
(e) p (f) w (g) g

The hundred cells in the square given below have been filled with letters. The columns and the rows are identified by the numerals 0 to 9. Each letter is represented by the digits of columns and rows, for example L is 01 or G is 13. The words in questions 29 to 32 are represented by one of the four alternatives given below it. Your task is to tick mark the right choice.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	Y	L	B	P	G	N	H	S	E	A
1	Z	A	Q	K	T	X	I	O	N	U
2	H	R	W	M	A	V	V	E	W	I
3	T	Y	A	I	U	U	O	N	C	G
4	M	O	B	J	E	K	U	W	X	R
5	A	C	L	M	F	R	A	A	I	T
6	P	S	U	E	Z	G	B	Y	D	L
7	C	D	Y	Q	X	O	Q	K	I	O
8	M	I	Z	V	E	A	U	E	I	S
9	P	E	O	D	E	U	H	O	C	F

29. TUNE

- (a) 14, 19, 73, 44 (b) 14, 86, 37, 48

- (c) 59, 86, 05, 44 (d) 14, 19, 05, 78
30. ROAD
(a) 49, 41, 85, 86 (b) 21, 75, 50, 93
(c) 21, 14, 56, 93 (d) 49, 75, 24, 17
31. LUST
(a) 52, 34, 70, 30 (b) 01, 62, 89, 95
(c) 01, 34, 61, 95 (d) 69, 95, 61, 30
32. SHIP
(a) 07, 96, 87, 90 (b) 89, 96, 33, 06
(c) 61, 20, 29, 03 (d) 61, 06, 34, 60

MISCELLANEOUS

In each of the following questions, two signs have been interchanged. Find out these two signs so that the equation may become correct. Use as +, × and then + and -.

33. $24 + 6 \times 3 + 2 - 2 = 8$
(a) × and + (b) + and +
(c) ÷ and - (d) -- and +
34. $12 - 2 \times 7 + 8 + 1 = 25$
(a) - and + (b) + and +
(c) - and + (d) - and ×
35. $3 + 4 - 15 \times 3 + 4 = 11$
(a) ÷ and × (b) + and +
(c) - and + (d) - and +
36. $1 \times 27 + 3 - 48 + 2 = 6$
(a) + and + (b) × and -
(c) + and × (d) - and +

In questions 37 to 40, find the relationship that can definitely be deduced on the basis of two relationships given. The operations used are as follows:

- means 'is greater than'.
Δ means 'is less than'.
↑ means 'is not equal to'.
+ means 'is equal to'.

37. $3A + 2B$ and $B + 3C$, therefore
(a) $C \square A$ (b) $3C + 2A$ (c) $A \Delta C$ (d) $2C + A$
38. $2A \square 3B$ and $2B + 3C$, therefore
(a) $2C \square A$ (b) $2C \Delta A$ (c) $C + A$ (d) $A \Delta C$
39. $8A \Delta 6B$ and $3B \Delta 4C$, therefore
(a) $C \square A$ (b) $C \Delta A$ (c) $2C + A$ (d) $C \square 2A$
40. $10A \uparrow 4B$ and $B + 2C$, therefore
(a) $A \square B$ (b) $4C \uparrow 5A$ (c) $4C \Delta 5A$
(d) $5A \Delta 4C$

41. If Rakesh is taller than Yogesh but shorter than Mukesh who is shorter than Suresh but taller than Naresh, then the tallest person is:

- (a) Suresh
(b) Naresh
(c) Rakesh
(d) Mukesh

42. Reeta has one rupee more than Neeta who has Rs 2/- less than Geeta. Geeta has Rs 4/- less than Meeta who has Rs 5/- more than Seeta. If the total amount the girls

have is Rs 105/- who has exactly one fifth of it?

- (a) Reeta
(b) Neeta
(c) Geeta
(d) Meeta
(e) Seeta

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. 62. Go on adding 0, 1, 2, 3... to numbers.
2. 14. The difference in numbers is 1, 3, 5, 7, 9...
3. 15. Each number is double +1 of its preceding number.
4. 15. There are two series, 6, 8, 10, 12... and 9, 12, 15...
5. 67. Go on deducting $1^2, 2^2, 3^2, 4^2 \dots$ from numbers.
6. 18. There are two series 11, 13, 15... and 12, 15, 18...
7. 330. Make sets of two; add the numbers of the preceding set to get the first number of the next set and multiply them to get the second number.
8. 37. Add the two preceding numbers to get the next one.
9. to 12. The totals of numbers row-wise and column-wise are the same as given in answers:
9. 50
10. 28
11. 115
12. 65
13. (b) The series is aabc, bbca, ccab, aabc.
14. (a) The series is acab, acab, acab...
15. (d) The series is abcba, abcba, abcba...
16. (a) The series is abcab, abcab, abcab...
17. (c) The series is caba, cbca, caba, cbca.
18. (c)
19. (b)
20. (c) All the other sets have two vowels only.
21. (c) It is the only one with a repeated letter.
22. (d) All the others follow alphabetical arrangement of letters.
23. to 28. Letters have to be sorted out and matched with letters in codes, e.g. INE are common in PAINTER and MACHINE, EN is there in URGENCY too but I is missing which confirms that 's' is the code for I, then in DOLPHIN you have I and N common, but since you already know the code for I, the code for N is 'f'.
23. (a)
24. (g)
25. (e)
26. (c)
27. (d)
28. (a)
29. (c)
30. (b)
31. (d)
32. (c)
33. (a)
34. (d)
35. (a)
36. (a)
37. (d)
38. (b)
39. (a)
40. (b)
41. (a)
42. (c)

TEST OF REASONING—II

ODD-MAN

Find the odd-man out:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. (a) taka | (b) rouble |
| (c) shilling | (d) ton |
| (e) dollar | |
| 2. (a) lake | (b) mountain |
| (c) ocean | (d) geyser |
| (e) river | |
| 3. (a) love | (b) affectation |
| (c) infatuation | (d) attachment |
| (e) longing | |
| 4. (a) lamb | (b) puppy |
| (c) kangaroo | (d) chic |
| (e) cup | |
| 5. (a) arrow | (b) bullet |
| (c) missile | (d) sword |
| (e) spear | |
| 6. (a) sitar | (b) violin |
| (c) flute | (d) guitar |
| (e) veena | |
| 7. (a) listen | (b) talk |
| (c) geography | (d) psychology |
| (e) knife | |
| 8. (a) bet | (b) fit |
| (c) chop | (d) flop |
| (e) log | |

ANALOGIES

The items given in the following questions have something in common. Tick mark the most appropriate choice:

9. Prakrit : Pali : Sanskrit
 - (a) They are classical languages of Asia & Europe.
 - (b) The Vedas are written in these languages.
 - (c) They are old languages of India.
 - (d) They are dead languages which no one knows now.
10. tola : masha : ratti
 - (a) They are units of time.
 - (b) They are units of weight.
 - (c) They are fruits of wild plants.
 - (d) They are terms used in Ayurveda.
11. Madras : Vishakhapatnam : Rangoon.
 - (a) They are Indian naval bases.
 - (b) All these ports are situated on the coast of the Bay of Bengal.
 - (c) They are capitals of States.
 - (d) They are famous for their architecture.
12. chain : link : bridge.
 - (a) They join two parts.

- (b) The terms are related with prison.
- (c) They all have hooks.
- (d) They are related with ornaments.

Words in the following questions have certain relationship. Your task is to tick mark the choice with similar relationship:

13. Indra : rainfall
 - (a) Venus : war
 - (b) Shakespeare : drama
 - (c) Shiv : creation
 - (d) Cupid : love
14. riots : bloodshed
 - (a) volcano : earthquake
 - (b) epidemics : death
 - (c) antiseptics : wounds
 - (d) roots : plants
15. mosquito : malaria
 - (a) rat : small-pox
 - (b) cat : mice
 - (c) flood : havoc
 - (d) rain : water
16. walk : run
 - (a) play : game
 - (b) smile : laugh
 - (c) newspaper : magazine
 - (d) sit : stand
17. exit : enter
 - (a) notorious : famous
 - (b) go : depart
 - (c) peace : nation
 - (d) money : buy
18. road : footpath
 - (a) river : bank
 - (b) train : station
 - (c) aeroplane : aerodrome
 - (d) room : window
19. rose : flower
 - (a) room : building
 - (b) chess : game
 - (c) neck : necklace
 - (d) dress : garment
20. guava : mango
 - (a) juice : squash
 - (b) Bhils : Nagas
 - (c) badminton : shuttlecock
 - (d) book : read

LOGICAL DEDUCTIONS

21. A child must have had

(a) toys	(b) education
(c) friends	(d) parents

- (e) religion
22. A mountain always has
 (a) forest (b) rocks
 (c) snow (d) waterfall
 (e) flowers
23. A temple always has
 (a) flag (b) dome
 (c) deity (d) steps
 (e) bell
24. A quarrel cannot begin without
 (a) foolishness (b) two persons
 (c) short temper (d) hot words
 (e) physical strength
25. A king always has
 (a) Prime Minister (b) Queen
 (c) Palace (d) rich clothes
 (e) kingdom

Seven villages A, B, C, D, E, F and G are situated in the following way:

B is three kilometres to the east of E.

A is two km to the west of G.

F is two km to the north of A.

G is two km to the south of B.

C is one km to the north of F.

D is between A and F.

26. Which four villages are in a straight line?

- (a) EFBC (b) BFDA
 (c) EFDA (d) CFDA

27. How far is F from B?

- (a) one km (b) 2 km
 (c) 3 km (d) 4 km

28. If during a certain year, 2nd Oct was Friday, when did 14th Nov fall?

- (a) Monday (b) Wednesday
 (c) Thursday (d) Saturday

29. A box in a dark room contains 5 pairs of red socks, six of blue and seven pairs of white socks. If the owner wants just one pair of any colour, what is the minimum number of socks that he should take out in order to have one pair of any one colour:

- (a) 4 (b) 11
 (c) 13 (d) 24

30. Mr Roy started from his home. He went one km, north then turned right and went one km; from there he

again turned right and went two km, then he turned left and covered one km, in the end he again turned left and reached his destination after going one km. How far is he from his home? (in kms)

- (a) 2 (b) $\sqrt{1^2+2^2}$
 (c) $\sqrt{2^2+2^2}$ (d) $\sqrt{2^2+3^2}$

Five children Shaloo, Pooja, Ranu, Guddie and Rinku are interested in flying kites, reading comics, painting, collecting stamps and singing. Study the following statements and match the right parts.

Shaloo and Pooja are not interested in painting or comics.

Guddie and Rinku neither sing nor fly kites.

Comics and stamps do not attract Ranu or Guddie.

Ranu and Shaloo do not fly kites.

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 31. Shaloo | A. Flying kites |
| 32. Pooja | B. Reading comics |
| 33. Ranu | C. Painting |
| 34. Rinku | D. Collecting stamps |
| 35. Guddie | E. Singing |
| 36. If cold drinks were oceans, then ice-cubes will be | |
| (a) coast-lines | (b) glaciers |
| (c) ice-bergs | (d) islands |
| 37. If clouds were heart, thunder would be | |
| (a) heart-attack | (b) collapse |
| (c) thumping of heart | (d) emotions |
| 38. If forests were cities, trees would be | |
| (a) houses | (b) lamp-posts |
| (c) roads | (d) markets |

Seven soldiers A, B, C, D, E, F and G are standing in a line.

C is to the left of G.

E is not near A or B.

F and A have one soldier between them.

A is to the left of C.

F is to the right of B.

E and A have two soldiers between them.

39. Who is on the extreme right?

- (a) B (b) D (c) E (d) F (e) G

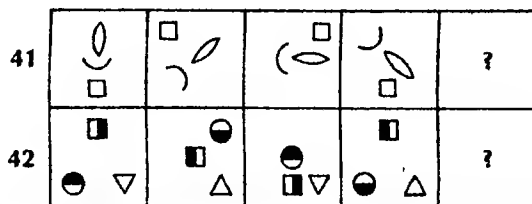
40. Who is exactly in the middle?

- (a) A (b) B (c) D (d) F (e) G

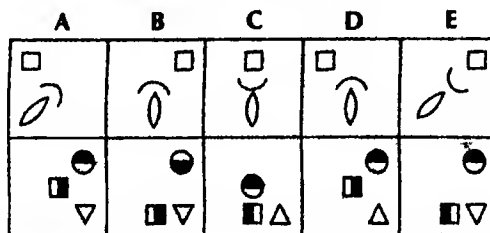
NON-VERBAL SERIES

Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures A, B, C, D and E. You have to say which of the figures from A, B, C, D and E would fit in place of the question mark in the Problem Figures.

PROBLEM FIGURES



ANSWER FIGURES



43					?
44					?
45					?
46					?
47					?
48					?
49					?
50					?

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (d) It is a unit of weight while other terms are connected with currency.
2. (b) It is the only one without water.
3. (b) It is an unnatural behaviour while others are emotional feelings.
4. (c) All the others are young ones of animals.
5. (d) All the others strike the target at some distance.
6. (c) All the others are string instruments.
7. (c) All the others have silent letters.
8. (c) In all the other words, the letters follow alphabetical arrangement.
9. (c) 10. (b) 11. (b) 12. (a)
13. (d) The relationship is that of God and the item with which he is associated.
14. (b) There is cause and effect relationship.
15. (c) One is responsible for the other.
16. (b) The relationship is that of mild and strong.
17. (a) The words are opposites.
18. (a) Just as footpaths are on both sides of a road in the same way banks are on both sides of a river.
19. (b) The relationship is that of specific and general.
20. (b) Both are two items of the same category.
21. (d) 22. (b) 23. (c) 24. (b) 25. (e)
26. (d) 27. (b) 28. (d) 29. (a) 30. (a)
31. D 32. A 33. E 34. B 35. C
36. (c) They float around in a similar way.
37. (d) Strong and weak emotions rise and strike around in a similar way.
38. (a) 39. (c) 40. (a)
41. D. The bud and semi-circle set rotates clockwise, the semi-circle

42. A. Circle and square move along three points, the black part shifts to the other side, the triangle shifts right and left tilting alternately.
43. E. The spring rotates anti-clockwise, arrow going to the other side. The dot moves along three points.
44. C. The figure swings right and left bending a little more and changing direction. The other figure goes up and down.
45. A. The three figures interchange places clockwise, and the one that comes down from the top changes direction as well.
46. B. Figures at the end of the line interchange places and the one that comes down, opens a bit more.
47. A. The line of the mirror image of 'R' goes up and 'E' changes direction.
48. B. 'Y' tilts and moves right and left. Arrow in the centre has one head extra.
49. C. The figure at the top comes down and goes to the other end of the line. The others shift up accordingly.
50. D. One horizontal and one vertical line is added alternately to make a corner, circle hops right and left and the '+' sign goes from right to left in three steps.

Corrections

Page 274: Nov '91, TEST-II

After Q. 20, the instruction is:

Tick mark the choice that is NOT essential for the item in questions.

Page 276: Q.15. Answer is (c).

The omissions are regretted.

—Editor

TEST OF REASONING—III

SYLLOGISM

TYPE I

In questions given below, a situation has been explained in a few sentences followed by a conclusion. You have to say whether the conclusion:

- (a) necessarily follows from the statements.
- (b) is only a long drawn one.
- (c) definitely does not follow from the statements.
- (d) is doubtful as the data provided is inadequate.

Note: Your answers should only be in the light of the statements given.

Statements:

1. 1. Overbearing and garrulous officers are not liked by subordinates.
2. Mr Raman is not exactly popular with his staff.

Conclusion: He is an overbearing and garrulous officer.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

2. 1. Throngs of people waited to pay homage to the ashes of Mr Rajiv Gandhi on railway platform when the special train carrying his ashes was on way to Allahabad.
2. They waited endlessly for the last *darshan*.

Conclusion: Rajiv Gandhi was a very popular leader.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

3. 1. Two rival candidates in a certain area of Khajuraho shared a common vehicle for canvassing.
2. They flaunted their banners from two extreme ends of a jeep requesting the voters to vote for either of them.

Conclusion: They wanted the winners to be one of the family.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

4. 1. Women from well to do families usually put on artificial jewellery.
2. Gold has become very expensive.

Conclusion: These women cannot afford real jewellery.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

5. 1. The women's wing of LTTE has more than 3000 strong women warriors.
2. There are many men warriors too.

Conclusion: Women warriors are as strong as men warriors.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

6. 1. The earthquake in the Uttarkashi district took toll of many lives.
2. Some distant villages became totally unapproachable.

Conclusion: The earthquake destroyed the road that joined them.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

7. 1. Natwarlal, known as the king of cheats is wanted for more than 100 cases.
2. Various courts have sentenced him to a total of 113 years.

Conclusion: If caught, Natwarlal will not be allowed to die till his sentence of 113 years is over.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

8. 1. Traditional joint families are splitting up these days.
2. The families of two brothers X and Y are living under the same roof.

Conclusion: X and Y are not very modern.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

9. 1. Second marriages are usually successful.
2. Husband and wife are more tolerant of each other's fault and drawbacks.

Conclusion: They want to avoid a second failure at all costs.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

10. 1. The prices of cigarettes have gone very high during the last decade.
2. Many Indian smokers have switched over to 'bidis' from cigarettes.

Conclusion: Bidis are cheaper than cigarettes.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

TYPE II

In making decisions about important questions, it is desirable to be able to distinguish between 'strong' arguments and 'weak' arguments. A 'weak' argument may not be directly related to the question, may be of minor importance or may be related to some trivial aspect of the question. In questions given below, a question is followed by arguments I and II. You have to decide which of the arguments is 'strong' and which is 'weak' and then tick-mark your answers from A, B, C, D and E as follows:

- (a) Only I is strong.
- (b) Only II is strong.
- (c) Both I and II are strong

(d) Either I or II is strong

(e) Neither I nor II is strong.

11. Do adopted children suffer from a complex of not really belonging?

I. Yes, instead of having a sense of belonging, they are always under obligation for being lifted from poor quarters.

II. No, love, affection and protection from new parents bridge all gaps and there are no complexes left.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

12. Are competitive exams really needed for finding suitable candidates to fill in various posts?

I. Yes, such tests screen the candidates according to their potentials.

II. No, it is a waste of time, money and energy, since selection can be made on the basis of candidates' qualifications.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

13. Can a celebrity remain unaffected after all the praise and adulation?

I. Yes, a balanced, wise and composed person does not let these things go to head.

II. No, such compliments are bound to brain-wash and intoxicate the person concerned.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

14. Do intelligent persons contribute to the growth of people around?

I. Yes, intelligence is easily transferred from one person to another.

II. No, the people around are not impressed by them.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

15. Is the act of medical staff who neglect the patients suffering from AIDS justified?

I. Yes, they have every right to protect themselves from the fatal disease.

II. No, their first duty lies in attending and comforting every patient.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

16. Should diplomats display emotions while talking with diplomats of other nations?

I. Yes, it is only natural to display one's feeling during a conversation.

II. No, it is a part of their training to hide real feelings behind a mask like countenance so that the others do not know what they are actually thinking or feeling?

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

17. Are gifts given to our President during his visits to foreign countries his personal property?

I. Yes, if one receives a gift, it automatically belongs to him.

II. No, the gifts are not given in personal capacity, they are given by members of one country to the head of another country so they are

property of Nation.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

18. Are beauty competitions a disgrace to women?

I. Yes, they have to appear before the judges in minimum clothes.

II. No, the display during the competitions has a natural grace and beauty which has nothing shameful about it.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

19. Do members of Parliament involved in forming government through consensus have no differences?

I. Yes, they all have the same likings and dislikings.

II. No, they are always fighting among themselves.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

20. Can a person shape his own destiny?

I. Yes, with perseverance, determination and confidence, one can achieve one's goal.

II. No, destiny is shaped in Heaven and if circumstances go wrong, nothing can be achieved.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE III

In a certain department, a list of employees is to be considered for promotion. The promotion rules of the department are as follows:

(i) The employee must complete 17 years of total service by 1st Oct 1991.

(ii) The employee must complete 7 years on the **present** post by 1st March 1991.

(iii) The employee must have one of the remarks from 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' in his CR (Confidential Report).

(iv) If an employee fulfils (i) and (ii) but has only 'satisfactory' remark in his CR he may be recommended for promotion if he has served in foreign countries for one year or more by his senior officer.

(v) If an employee fulfils (ii) and (iii) conditions, has put in 15 years of service and has served in foreign countries for three years, he/she may be recommended for promotion by his/her senior officer.

(vi) If an employee fulfils (i), has put in at least 5 years of service on present post, has excellent CR and has one or more years' experience in foreign countries will be considered for promotion by the Board of Directors.

(vii) If an employee has been holding the present post for ten years or more, the Board of Directors will recommend his/her case to the Chairman for special consideration.

(viii) The other employees, who fail to fulfil the conditions given away will not be recommended for promotion.

Study the cases of the employees given in questions

21 to 30 and mark your answers as under:

- (A) The employee will be promoted
- (B) The employee will be recommended for promotion by his senior officer
- (C) The employee will be considered for promotion by the Board of Directors
- (D) The Board of Directors will send the employee's case to the Chairman for special consideration
- (F) The employee has no chances of promotion

21. Gayatri joined her services on 16th Nov. 1972, has been holding the present post since 1st May '83, has served in foreign countries for one year and the remark in her CR is satisfactory

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ F ☐

22. Hemant joined the service on 5th Sept 1974, has been holding the present post since 1st Feb. 1985, has served in foreign countries for one year and has an excellent CR

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

23. Indra joined the service on 1st Aug. '76 after serving in foreign countries for three years. She has a very good CR and has been on the present post since 1st Jan 1984

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

24. Jagdish joined the service on 1st Sept 1972, has been on the present post since 1st Feb 1982, has a good CR and has served in foreign countries for one year

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ F ☐

25. Kusum has been on the office-staff since Sept 20th '73, has been holding this particular post since 1st Feb '85, her CR is excellent and she has served in foreign countries for one year

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ F ☐

26. Laxmi joined this office on 31st Aug. 1973 after serving in foreign countries for three years. She was given the present posting on 1st March 1983 and her CR has been excellent

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ F ☐

27. Mohan has been in this office since 1st Sept '75, has been on this particular post since 1st March, '81 and has the remark 'satisfactory' in his CR

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

28. Narendra joined service on 15th September 1975 and has been holding the present post since 1st Feb '85. He has served abroad for a year and his CR is good

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ F ☐

29. Om Prakash joined this office on 15th Sept '71. He has been holding the present post since 1st Jan 1986. He has served in foreign countries for 3 years and has an excellent CR

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ F ☐

30. Prem Singh joined this office on 1st July 1977, has been on the present post since 1st Feb 1984. His CR is excellent and he served in foreign countries for two years

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ F ☐

TYPE IV

In questions given below, a statement is followed by implications I and II. Imply I and II to the statement and tick-mark your answers as under:

- (a) Only I is implicit
- (b) Only II is implicit
- (c) Both I and II are implicit
- (d) Either I or II is implicit
- (e) Neither I nor II is implicit

Statement

31. Low-cost houses have plain cement floors and low-grade brick walls

Implications

- I The material used for constructing such houses is the cheapest one available
- II Bricks and cement are not used for high-cost constructions

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

32. Restaurants with boisterous music and dazzling lights are not very popular with grown-ups

Implications

- I The young like a boisterous mood around them
- II The aged find relaxation in a peaceful atmosphere

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

33. A film is being made on Rajiv Gandhi's murder

Implications

- I The film-makers loved Rajiv Gandhi immensely
- II The film-makers want to cash the national tragedy of Rajiv Gandhi's assassination

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

34. When the government announces a handsome amount for some relief fund, only 20% reaches the actual victims

Implications

- I After announcement, the govt does not release the whole amount
- II The corrupt officers and other employees manage to keep a large share from the relief fund for themselves

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

35. According to the Centre's directive to nationalised banks, 11.5% income-tax would be deducted on the interest earned on fixed deposits

Implications

- I No one wants to pay income-tax
- II There is no deduction of income-tax elsewhere

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

GENERAL AWARENESS

The following questions were set in the Bank Probationary Officers' examination held on the 20th October, 1991.

We are grateful to Mr Atique-ul-Zaman of Patna and Mr Ajit Kumar Aggarwal of Ranchi for sending these questions to us.

1. Wimbledon's Women's Singles Title for the year 1991 was won by:
 - (a) Steffi Graf
 - (b) Gabriela Sabatini
 - (c) Martina Navratilova
 - (d) Pam Shriver
2. Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Nepal?
 - (a) B.P. Koirala
 - (b) Binda Shah
 - (c) K.P. Bhattarai
 - (d) Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya
3. Who among the following has been appointed by Chandra Shekhar Government as Head of the one-man commission to conduct a judicial inquiry into the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi?
 - (a) J.S. Verma
 - (b) D.P. Madon
 - (c) Rangnath Misra
 - (d) D.R. Kartikeyan
4. Which of the following is the largest single opposition party in the present Lok Sabha?
 - (a) Janta Dal
 - (b) BJP
 - (c) Congress-1
 - (d) SJP
5. Bachawat Award was for:
 - (a) Newspaper establishments
 - (b) Teachers
 - (c) Physicians & Surgeons
 - (d) Lawyers
6. Who has taken over as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission?
 - (a) P.V. Narasimha Rao
 - (b) Pranab Mukherji
 - (c) Mohan Dharia
 - (d) Dr Manmohan Singh
7. According to 1991 census, which of the following statements about literacy figures is NOT true?
 - (a) Only those above 7 years of age were considered for calculating the literacy rate
 - (b) In absolute numbers there is an increase in the literate population
 - (c) There is an increase in the population of illiterates
 - (d) India has one-third of the world's illiterates
8. Which of the following is a recently released biography of Lady Mountbatten?
 - (a) Mountbatten
 - (b) Edwina Mountbatten
 - (c) Edwina Mountbatten—A life of her own
 - (d) Edwina Mountbatten—Her relationship with Nehru
 - (e) Mountbatten and her stay in India
9. Who is the author of the recently released book 'All these Years'?
 - (a) P.D. Tandon
 - (b) Romesh Thapar
 - (c) Kamla Chattopadhyaya
 - (d) Khushwant Singh
10. Which of the following world countries is to host 1992 Olympics?
 - (a) Italy
 - (b) South Korea
 - (c) Mexico
 - (d) Brazil
 - (e) None of these
11. Which of the following players recently won women's singles "French Open Lawn Tennis" title?
 - (a) Monica Seles
 - (b) Steffi Graf
 - (c) Zina Garrison
 - (d) Gabriela Sabatini
12. Which of the following countries recently participated in Asia Zone pre-Olympic qualifying football tournament at the Lal Bahadur Stadium, Hyderabad in Aug '91?
 - (a) Indonesia
 - (b) China
 - (c) Nepal
 - (d) Syria
13. Who among the following has been awarded 'Bharat Ratna' recently?
 - (a) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
 - (b) N.C. Ranga
 - (c) G.L. Nanda
 - (d) S.C. Bose
14. The present Lok Sabha is:
 - (a) 9th
 - (b) 10th
 - (c) 11th
 - (d) 8th
 - (e) 12th
15. Women's world Power Lifting competitions was held in which of the following cities in June 1991?
 - (a) New Delhi
 - (b) Washington
 - (c) Tokyo
 - (d) Peking
16. The World Open Billiards Tournament for the top eight professionals was held from July 25th to July 29th 1991 in which of the following cities?
 - (a) New Delhi
 - (b) Washington
 - (c) Bangkok
 - (d) Bangalore
17. Headquarters of the 'World Bank' is situated at which of the following places?
 - (a) Manila
 - (b) Washington
 - (c) New York
 - (d) England
18. As per census 1991, which of the following States is below the national average for literacy?
 - (a) Maharashtra
 - (b) Gujarat
 - (c) Orissa
 - (d) West Bengal
19. In the recent budget proposals, the non-planned expenditure is kept at approximately:
 - (a) Rs 65,000 crore
 - (b) Rs 70,000 crore
 - (c) Rs 75,000 crore
 - (d) Rs 80,000 crore
20. Which of the following is the largest planet?
 - (a) Mercury
 - (b) Venus
 - (c) Pluto
 - (d) Mars
 - (e) Jupiter
21. Which of the following is the main function of 'Insulin' in the human body?
 - (a) to maintain the blood pressure

- (b) to check the level of iodine in the body
(c) to help in digestion of food
(d) to control the level of sugar in the body
22. Newspapers are NOT published from which of the following Indian States?
(a) Assam
(b) Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Mizoram
(d) Manipur
23. Which of the following is one of the highlights of new Industrial Policy recently declared by the Central Government?
(a) Excise Duty on two wheelers increased
(b) Government banned the import of technical knowhow for a year
(c) Licencing dispensed with for all industries except 18.
(d) NRIs not allowed to invest in India
24. Who has won the greatest number of Oscars in his life-time?
(a) Walt Disney
(b) Ingrid Bergman
(c) Charlie Chaplin
(d) David Lean
25. 'Cauvery Water Dispute' is between pairs of which of the following States?
(a) Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry
(b) Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat
(c) Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh
(d) Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka
(e) Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat
26. Which of the following statement is TRUE about Nepal?
(a) Monarchy returned to Nepal
(b) King Birendra assumed the office of the Prime Minister of the country
(c) Mr Krishna Prasad Bhattarai was sworn in as the country's new Prime Minister
(d) Nepal's first elected government in the last 32 years was sworn in on May 29th, 1991
27. Which of following is TRUE as far as recent budget proposals are concerned?
(a) Increase in excise duty rates of a large number of consumer durables
(b) Change in the rate structure of personal income tax
(c) Reduction in import duty
(d) Increase in customs duty
(e) None of these
28. 'Deolali' in Nasik District of Maharashtra was in the news because:
(a) one of the employee of army school was awarded highest gallantry award
(b) the army's school of artillery celebrated its golden jubilee
(c) there was communal riot recently
(d) there was a religious fair there recently
(e) None of these
29. The giant metrewave radio-telescope is located at:
(a) Khodad
(b) Pune
(c) Ooty
(d) Kharagpur
(e) None of these
30. Who has been appointed as Chairman of the Committee that will look into the recommendations of the Ram Murti Committee's report?
(a) Dr Malcolm Adiseshiah
(b) A.P. Mitra
(c) N. Janardhan Reddy
(d) V. Iyer
(e) None of these
31. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) gives which of the following awards every year?
(a) Jannalal Bajaj
(b) S.S. Bhatnagar
(c) Dhanvantri
(d) Hari Om Ashram
32. Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma is a famous player of:
(a) Shehnai (b) Flute
(c) Santoor (d) Tabla
(e) Sitar
33. Why Mrs Edith Cresson of France was in the news recently?
(a) She was the first woman to become French Premier
(b) She visited India recently
(c) She was the first woman opposition leader of the country
(d) Her name was proposed for Nobel Peace Prize for 1990
34. According to World Tables, 1991, published by the World Bank in May 1991, India's external debt in 1989 was:
(a) \$ 1 billion
(b) \$ 62.509 billion
(c) \$ 7.937 billion
(d) \$ 6.250 billion
(e) None of these
35. Recently telecasted serial 'India's Rajiv' was produced & directed by which of the following personalities?
(a) Mira Nair
(b) Shyam Benegal
(c) Satyajit Ray
(d) Simmi Grewal
36. Who is the present Governor of Punjab?
(a) Surendra Nath
(b) O.P. Malhotra
(c) Virendra Verma
(d) Sidharth Shanker Ray
37. Which of the following is NOT a metal?
(a) Nickel
(b) Mercury
(c) Phosphorus
(d) Lead
(e) Radium
38. Ikebana is the Japanese art of:
(a) plant farming
(b) freestyle wrestling
(c) modern painting
(d) suicide
(e) flower arrangement
39. Ben Kingsley is associated with which of the following fields?
(a) Medical Science
(b) Sports
(c) Politics
(d) Social Service
(e) Motion picture
40. How much approximate blood (litres) does a normal adult human have in the body?
(a) 4 to 5 (b) 2 to 3
(c) 1 to 2 (d) 6 to 7
(e) None of these

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. (a) | 2. (a) | 3. (a) |
| 4. (b) | 5. (a) | 6. (b) |
| 7. (c) | 8. (c) | 9. (b) |
10. (e) The 1992 Olympic games will be held at Barcelona (Spain)
- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 11. (a) | 12. (d) | 13. (a) |
| 14. (b) | 15. (a) | 16. (a) |
| 17. (b) | 18. (c) | 19. (d) |
| 20. (e) | 21. (d) | 22. (b) |
| 23. (c) | 24. (d) | 25. (a) |
| 26. (d) | 27. (a) | 28. (b) |
| 29. (a) | 30. (c) | 31. (b) |
| 32. (c) | 33. (a) | 34. (b) |
| 35. (d) | 36. (a) | 37. (c) |
| 38. (e) | 39. (e) | 40. (a) |

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

* Read the following passages carefully and select the most appropriate answers to the questions given below. For each question, four choices are given.

The recent policy packages of the new government concerning industry, trade and finance are designed to bring about far-reaching changes in Indian economy. While industry is widely jubilant, consumer and labour circles are apprehensive of the immediate and long-term impact of the new measures. Industry feels that it will now have far greater freedom to reorganise, rationalise and expand in terms of finances, production patterns and the optimum use of capital and labour. On the other hand the spectre of large scale lay-offs and unemployment is haunting trade unionists and workers. What seems to have exasperated workers' circles and indeed the ministry of labour itself is the apparent complete lack of consultation with them prior to the announcement of the new policies. Latest indications, however, are that finance ministry is to initiate such discussions shortly.

It is essential that these discussions should be conducted in an atmosphere free of mutual suspicion and hostility. It would be useful to reach a measure of consensus on certain broad propositions. The new policies are designed to accelerate the process of restructuring and give it a certain direction. Restructuring can take many different forms such as privatisation of the public sector; scaling down certain lines of production while production in other lines is initiated and stepped up; introduction of new technologies and optimising the use of capital resources and labour.

1. The new policy packages of the government are designed to:

- (a) increase industrial and agricultural production
- (b) effect important changes in the Indian economy
- (c) control prices

(d) give absolute freedom to industry to control and reorganise its finances

2. What are the fears of trade unions and workers?

- (a) large scale unemployment
- (b) large scale lay-offs to save finances
- (c) lack of understanding between ministry of labour and workers
- (d) further worsening of relations between labour and management

3. One of the following indications is TRUE.

- (a) increase in workers' wages shortly
- (b) participation of labour in management in due course of time
- (c) governmental take-over of industries soon
- (d) initiation of discussions between labour and ministry shortly

4. One of the following statements is FALSE.

- (a) the new policies aim at restructuring of industry
- (b) it would be useful if there is a consensus
- (c) discussions should be free of mutual suspicion and hostility
- (d) discussions and meetings are of no use

5. Restructuring can be done by:

- (a) totally giving up the past practices
- (b) selective and ideal forms
- (c) varied forms
- (d) rigid forms

6. Restructuring should aim at:

- (a) introduction of new technologies only
- (b) liberal imports of technical know-how
- (c) optimum use of capital, labour and new technologies
- (d) take-over of sick industrial units

* Pick out the word/words which is SAME in meaning as the words underlined in the passages:

7. apprehensive:

- (a) anxious (b) nervous
- (c) fearful (d) worried

8. exasperated:

- (a) annoyed (b) ignored
- (c) teased (d) offended

9. spectre:

- (a) shadow (b) spirit
- (c) illusion (d) ghost

10. hostility:

- (a) arrogance (b) distrust
- (c) dislike (d) hatred

* Pick out the word/words that is OPPOSITE in meaning to the words underlined in the passages:

11. jubilant:

- (a) dejected (b) unlively
- (c) depressed (d) unhappy

12. expand:

- (a) reduce (b) decrease
- (c) diminish (d) shrink

13. consensus:

- (a) confusion
- (b) disagreement
- (c) crisis
- (d) conflict

14. accelerate:

- (a) creep
- (b) move slowly
- (c) drag
- (d) lag

* Which of the phrases (1, 2, 3 & 4) given below each sentence should replace the phrase underlined to make the sentence grammatically correct? If the sentence is correct as it is, mark (5) as the answer.

15. The artist continues to work in the medium he understands best, breathing his inborn individuality and vitality into newer forms.

- (1) within the medium
- (2) with the medium
- (3) for the medium
- (4) into the medium
- (5) no correction required

16. This is the very first criminal case in which the suspect's name has figured and no one is quietly ready to

hazard a guess.

- (1) is quite ready to hazard
- (2) is quiet ready to hazard
- (3) is quite readily to hazard
- (4) was quite ready to hazard
- (5) no correction required

17. And when we saw that they were about to start building the coffer dam, we realised that something drastic has to be done.

- (1) was to be done
- (2) would be done
- (3) should be done
- (4) had to be done
- (5) no correction required

18. It does not augur well at all for the country and for what passes as its civil society that legitimate public action has been stilled in this manner.

- (1) into what passes as
- (2) for which passes as
- (3) for such passes as
- (4) for what passes as
- (5) no correction required

19. He felt like a character in a story book which had gazed out for a moment in his brief, imagined life at the real world.

- (1) that gazed out
- (2) who did gazed out
- (3) who has gazed out
- (4) who had gazed out
- (5) no correction required

* In each sentence below, four words have been printed in *italics* which are numbered 1, 2, 3 & 4. One of these words may be mis-spelt. Find out the word that is wrongly spelt.

20. Our decisions *emanate*(1) from our objective *evaluation*(2) of the *realities*(3) of the situation in any given *context*(4).

21. The *debtors*(1) and the *recipients*(2) of aid must also *acknowledge*(3) their need to accept *reasonable* (4) terms of aid.

22. *Necessarily*(1) writing in English turns out to be more of an *intellectual*(2) exercise for the Indian even when he may not have *cultivated*(3) his own *mother-tongue*(4).

23. *Subtel*(1) *nuances*(2) and hues of the Indian *languages*(3) as spoken in all these places settle down in his *psyche*(4).

24. As *impressive*(1) as the *quality*(2) of his work is the fact that he did not use any highly *sophisticated*(3) photographic *equipment*(4) for the job.

* Pick out the most effective word from the given words to fill in the blank to make the sentence meaningfully complete.

25. The influence of literature on society is that of a _____ on the climate of a region.

- (1) rainfall
- (2) greenery
- (3) landscape
- (4) forest

26. It is now accepted that all of us possess cancer _____.

- (1) genes
- (2) germs
- (3) cells
- (4) bacteria

27. Each one of us, in our lifetime tends to _____ a philosophy.

- (1) learn
- (2) acquire
- (3) follow
- (4) develop

28. Breakthroughs in science do not _____ with a bang.

- (1) come
- (2) happen
- (3) erupt
- (4) explode

29. There is not a single concept which I am convinced will _____ firm.

- (1) remain
- (2) keep
- (3) stand
- (4) impress

30. The relationship between trade, domestic health and safety standards _____ never been properly understood.

- (1) had
- (2) have
- (3) has
- (4) was

31. I would not like anyone of my _____ to study and get a degree like me.

- (1) colleagues
- (2) generation
- (3) friends
- (4) enemies

32. Here was a person who had such a healthy attitude _____ life.

- (1) for
- (2) towards
- (3) toward
- (4) in

33. Slaves are imprisoned _____ in the houses of revolutionaries.

- (1) still
- (2) thus
- (3) even
- (4) though

34. It is the theme of her paintings that generates _____ appeal.

- (1) prompt
- (2) immediate
- (3) quick
- (4) instant

* Read each sentence to find out if there is any error in it. The error, if any, will be in one of the parts of the sentence. The number of that part is the answer. If there is no error, the

answer is 5.

35. The irony of irony (1) is that popular (2) authors are generally (3) graded second-rate (4). No error (5).

• 36. Hardly anybody (1) including the thousands of women (2) from rural India (3) were impressed by her speech (4). No error (5).

37. He sat staring in surprise (1) unable to understand (2) as to why his mother wished (3) to go to the main road to die (4). No error (5).

38. The time has come (1) when we had to (2) find areas of agreement (3) often cutting across our personal prejudices (4). No error (5).

39. Such natural imagery (1) suggests that the killings (2) were akin with a natural disaster (3) and not a matter of individual responsibility (4). No error (5).

40. Yet the writers (1) have no qualms in (2) depicting the gory (3) details of the violence (4). No error (5).

• 41. Many a time (1) the records they have (2) managed to acquire were (3) in poor shape, to start with (4). No error (5).

• 42. If I had (1) my way (2) I will spend my (3) entire life on the sea (4). No error (5).

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (a) | 3. (d) |
| 4. (d) | 5. (c) | 6. (c) |
| 7. (c) | 8. (a) | 9. (d) |
| 10. (c) | 11. (d) | 12. (d) |
| 13. (b) | 14. (b) | 15. (2) |
| 16. (1) | 17. (4) | 18. (5) |
| 19. (4) | | |
| 20. (2) evaluation | | |
| 21. (2) recipients | | |
| 22. (1) necessarily | | |
| 23. (1) subtle | | |
| 24. (3) sophisticated | | |
| 25. (4) | 26. (1) | 27. (4) |
| 28. (1) | 29. (3) | 30. (3) |
| 31. (2) | 32. (2) | 33. (3) |
| 34. (4) | | |
| 35. (1) 'the irony of ironies' | | |
| 36. (4) 'was impressed' | | |
| 37. (3) 'as to' is not required; 'why his mother wished' is the correct usage. | | |
| 38. (2) 'when we have to' | | |
| 39. (3) 'were akin to' | | |
| 40. (2) 'no qualms about' | | |
| 41. (4) 'in a poor shape' | | |
| 42. (3) 'I would' | | |

Descriptive Questions

The following are the answers to questions set in the Descriptive Test for the BSRB (Madras) Clerical Examination held on September 22, 1991.

We thank Mr Varu Prasad Gupta of Nagari (AP) for sending us the question paper.

Q. 1 I had gone to a close friend of mine expecting a very warm welcome. But my expectations totally failed.

Give various possible reasons for this unexpected happening.

Ans. Momentary moods vary with the circumstances. However close a friend or colleague may be, he is generally not welcome to drop in at any time of the day or night—with some exceptions of course. It is possible that when the person referred to in the question went to meet his dear friend, the latter may be feeling greatly worried on account of certain personal and domestic problems. He may be greatly upset by a certain development (say a quarrel in the house) and probably wanted to be left alone in order to ponder over the difficult situation. When there is a domestic crisis, the adult members of the family generally wish to talk things over among themselves, without any outsider butting in and becoming an unwelcome intruder, however dependable a person the latter is supposed to be.

The "close friend" on whom this person called may not be close any more because of certain reports he might have heard about the visitor. It has often been seen that an adverse report about someone's character develops a sudden prejudice in the minds of even the best friends. When someone or his family is strongly criticised, the critic no longer remains a dear friend. When this development takes place at a certain time, it is no wonder that the former friend does not wish to meet the person who

has come in the expectation of a warm welcome. Even stray remarks made within the hearing of someone who knows both the families (and conveyed to the party thus criticised) may end cordial friendship.

Or may be the person suddenly visited may be getting ready to go out on an important piece of business. The visit may thus have come at a wrong time. How could a warm welcome be extended to the visiting friend in such circumstances?

Collective Thinking

Q. 2 Progress can be achieved only through collective thinking. Give two arguments in favour and two arguments against the viewpoint expressed in this statement.

Ans. Several factors contribute to the progress of a group or society; each has a different impact, positive or negative. Sometimes it is difficult to assess the precise impact of a certain factor; may be, it is a combination of factors that has brought about a happy result—sound progress.

Arguments in Favour

1. Two heads are always better than one; an individual on his own is generally unable to consider dispassionately all aspects of a problem or situation. When several persons express their views and offer their suggestions the result is, by and large, wholesome; the various aspects of a question or proposal are fully examined and the pros and cons of a scheme analysed in a constructive spirit.

2. History proves that when a single person, be he a head of State or Government or holder of some other high post, takes a decision or comes to a conclusion he may make mistakes. All human beings are liable to err. Bias and prejudice play their part in the decision-making process. And once a decision is made, for instance

a fateful one on making peace or going to war with another country, has been taken it is generally too late to reverse or modify it. Meanwhile, much damage and destruction might have been done. This happens particularly in war-time. There is much advantage in trying for a consensus or general agreement before taking a decision on an important matter of policy. Haste and rashness are avoided.

Arguments Against

1. At times the situation calls for a speedy and prompt decision on the course of action to be taken or to be avoided; where an individual has the final authority to take decisions, he or she can do so without waiting for the views of the members of a collective society or group. Much time is thus saved and in most cases time is the essence of the matter. It makes all the difference.

2. The concerned individual alone knows the intricacies of a certain situation and the problem may be too personal or secret to be disclosed to others, however friendly they might be. Leakage of a secret, especially among women, may do much harm socially. No woman, it is said, can keep a secret.

Effect of Punishment

Q. 3 Punishment, harsh treatment, ridicule can lead a person to learn better.

Explain and substantiate your stand by giving instances and examples from your own experience, reading or knowledge.

Ans. In my opinion, which is based on personal knowledge and experience, punishment to a child or adult for doing something wrong often serves a good purpose; such punishment makes the offender realise that he or she has done something wrong. It serves as a deterrent

and a warning that he cannot commit a wrong and get away with it. If, on the other hand, a person does not suffer in any way for committing a wrong, he is likely to repeat the error. The wrong-doer will, in consequence, never learn. If the crime, minor or major, is repeated much too often, the wrong-doer may become a habitual offender and therefore a danger to society. However, there are some people who hold the view that awarding punishment, especially corporal punishment, is degrading and otherwise harmful to a sensitive victim, while it is no deterrent to the hardened criminal; the latter may even court it. Its unwholesome effect may be seen when we recall that parents and teachers who resorted to it very frequently were the most brutal in other respects also. We should remember that the strain of cruelty exists somewhere in every individual. However, I have noticed that corporal punishment is quite effective because it is prompt and is feared by all. Punishment must, however, fit the crime. Where it is excessive or inadequate, it is likely to prove counter-productive. I have come across several such instances. Many first offenders can however be rehabilitated and reformed.

Harsh treatment is generally indefensible. It never pays. I know of growing children who have been brought round and persuaded to abandon bad habits through tact, sympathetic treatment and sound advice which can make a person a better member of society. But I know of at least two friends who became unsocial and introverts as a result of ridicule and derision by their parents or friends. Far from becoming good individuals and improving their conduct, they became cynics. Cases are also known of highly sensitive boys and girls who committed suicide when they were ridiculed or strongly abused, taunted or reprimanded on their dismal performance. Such ridicule should, I believe, be avoided. It is likely to have undesirable results.

Role of Watches

Q. 4. Suppose there were no watches in the world. Write your

answer by imagining the above situation.

Ans. If there were no watches in the world, it would be difficult, if not virtually impossible, to find out what time of the day or night it is. And when there is no information about the exact time at a particular moment, one would have to guess the time or wait for the announcements by the All India Radio and Doordarshan to get the requisite information. Time was when people could afford to idle away the hours of the day and night; it mattered little to them what the time was. They could have some idea about the time by noting the sunrise, when the sun is high in the horizon and when it sets. But in modern times knowledge about the exact time is vital—for attending school or college, or reaching one's office or for catching a bus or train or an aeroplane for a flight to some other city or country. Without such important information, it would be sheer guess work. Many people would miss their trains and flights and then shake their heads in despair when they miss trains, buses and planes. Or they would have to wait for hours for means of transport because they would not know the right time.

At present our life is regulated by

the watches, that is by time; generally we eat and go out to meet friends at fixed times. We are anxious to keep our appointments and be on time for duty in office or reach the post office to post letters and send registered articles or money orders by keeping the prescribed time in view. Without the watch we would be virtually at sea; there would be endless confusion and uncertainty.

Such mess and confusion would however be somewhat reduced if at least there are clocks and time-pieces. The question does not say whether there would be no time-pieces and clocks either. If none of these are available, the confusion would indeed be terrible. Few students would be able to reach their examination centres or places of study in time. As a sequel, they would miss many valuable career opportunities.

"Stop Watches" and other types of watches are necessary at sports meets. Without watches it would be difficult to record the timings of each race or other sports events. Much of the interest in such events might be lost if there are no watches. The exact timing is of great importance for establishing records in the sports field.

CURRENT AFFAIRS AND BACKGROUNDEERS

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Round-up of National Affairs

MAJOR EVENTS IN BRIEF

Relative stability—"Consensus" Prime Minister—Enhanced reservations—Bloody elections—Economic crisis—Improvement in foreign relations—Rebuff from Soviet Union—SAARC Summit episode.

The past year was one of relative political stability at the national level. It brought some relief after the short terms of Prime Ministers Mr V.P. Singh and Mr Chandra Shekhar; the former stayed in office for 11 months and the latter for only four months. Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao has been Prime Minister since June and since no political party, not even the sharp critics of the present regime, wants to oust him, he is likely to stay put for many months, if not for the full five-year term.

Mr Rao is widely known as the "consensus man"; there have been endless consultations, often characterised by immense patience. Since very few concrete decisions have been made, several cynics have described Mr Narasimha Rao as "a prisoner of indecision". The policy of conciliation has apparently done him much good in the political arena.

Almost the only definite decision taken by Mr Rao relates to the 59.5 per cent reservations and the introduction of the economic criterion in this system. Socially and economically backward sections of the people have thus been won over, more vote banks have been created. The final verdict has yet to be delivered by the Supreme Court which is considering the constitutionality of such a high percentage of reservations. Mr Rao emerged as a leader in his own right after the by-elections in Nov 91 which strengthened the Congress position.

But the country's main problems remain unsolved. The militants, the terrorists and the secessionists have been quite active, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Assam.

Militants' Activity: There were hundreds of killings (mostly of innocent people), scores of bomb blasts and much evidence of the new practice of kidnappings of important people followed by demands for release of jailed terrorists. Assam's notorious outfit ULFA repeatedly resorted to kidnappings. The Army's "Operation Buraung" was partially successful in tackling the ULFA extremists' menace. Punjab's Amritsar and Batala areas were seriously disturbed, with a daily toll of life. Many police and other security personnel and their families were among the hapless victims. Security became a cruel joke, judging from the militants' range of depredations.

The Naxalites continued to be active in Andhra Pradesh, and in some other areas where they indulged merrily in acts of lawlessness. The police seemed to have become helpless spectators of Naxalites' misdeeds.

The past year confirmed that peaceful elections have become a rare phenomenon in the country. Every electoral exercise is marked by bloodshed, violence, booth capturing and various other electoral malpractices. The general election held in May-June 1991 was perhaps the bloodiest on record and was characterised by repelling directives by the highly controversial Chief Election Commissioner, Mr T.N. Seshan, against whom impeachment proceedings were threatened by certain opposition parties. Later, at the instance of the ruling party, the threat was averted.

Although the economic disaster facing the country because of the foreign exchange and balance of payments crises were averted at the last minute by the drastic measures taken by the Union Finance Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and the World Bank-IMF gestures, inflationary forces continued to rock the country. The people groaned under the burden of soaring prices.

Foreign Relations: There was some improvement in Indo-US relations; at any rate there were few strains between them. There was no adverse impact of international developments, including the gradual phasing out of US-Pak cordiality and the notorious "tilt". India's relations with China also showed improvement. Although the border issue remains unresolved, the Prime Minister Li Peng envisaged some adjustments so as to eliminate the causes of tensions.

Indo-Pakistan relations however were marked by the usual strains, the occasional assurances by Islamabad leaders of "friendship and cordiality" notwithstanding. Pakistan continued to interfere in India's internal affairs by training, equipping and encouraging militants operating in J & K, and Punjab. On the nuclear issue also Pakistan's policy and postures were marked by hypocrisy and deception.

New Delhi's ties with Bangladesh remained generally cordial, though the old issue of Ganga waters is still unsolved. India welcomed the return of Bangladesh to parliamentary democracy and both countries assured the fullest cooperation.

India felt greatly hurt at the Soviet support to the Pakistan resolution on establishing a nuclear free zone in South Asia. A policy switch by India's traditional ally was feared, but President Gorbachev's assurances to India's External Affairs Minister, Mr Madhavsinh Solanki during the latter's talks in Moscow in mid-November, 1991, removed the apprehensions for the time being. But both Mr Gorbachev and Mr Yeltsin admit that Soviet priorities have changed.

India's relations with Sri Lanka took a dip on the issue of the SAARC summit scheduled to be held in Colombo early in November. It was the King of Bhutan's decision not to attend the summit because of domestic problems that led to the collapse of the summit but Sri Lanka President Mr Premadasa blamed Mr

Narasimha Rao for the dismal episode

India's ties with Nepal and Afghanistan remained friendly

Details of Notable Events

TELL-TALE ELECTION VERDICTS

* The results of the bloodiest and the most disorderly general election in the country to date held in May-June 1991, broadly conformed to the expectations with a few exceptions which did not radically change the political picture. The Congress (I) emerged as the largest party, with its total tally of 226—higher by about 30 than the 1989 poll figure. Given the party's internal wranglings, jealousies and fissures, the total seats won by the party were about all that were hoped for. In fact, the party's victories in Harvna and Assam exceeded the Congress's estimates.

Although the party could not secure a majority of its own and is 16 seats short of the coveted figure, there is little danger of the ruling set-up getting toppled in the near future. Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was asked by the President to get a vote of confidence from the Lok Sabha which he secured.

The National Front Government had fallen after 11 months when, following the arrest of Mr I.K. Advani, the BJP withdrew its support. The Chandra Shekhar ministry fell after 4 months when the Congress (I) withdrew its support on the pretext that the movements of Mr Rajiv Gandhi had been subjected to CID surveillance. Never had the country been governed by such a small group. Mr Chandra Shekhar announced his resignation from the post of Prime Minister on March 6, 1991. The President's plan for the formation of a National Government misfired, so on April 19, 1991, he called for general elections in the country including Assam and Punjab but excluding J & K.

The May-June, 1991, elections showed that several political parties and independents (of whom there was an unduly large number, in fact they dominated the field and created utter confusion) had thrown the code

of conduct to the winds. The booth capturing, the unprecedented number of weapons in evidence and the violence made matters worse. While India needed a popularly elected government with a fairly comfortable majority, what the country has got is another "hung House".

An analysis indicated that the BJP's popular vote had more than doubled during the 18 months, from 11.8 per cent in 1989 to about 24 per cent in 1991. The Congress (I)'s and the Janata Dal's popular vote had declined. The Congress (I) polled a lower percentage of votes in eight States and the Janata Dal in 10. But the BJP met this fate in only two States. The party has expressed great satisfaction on winning a clear majority in UP and securing 20 out of 25 Lok Sabha seats in Gujarat (Assembly elections were not held in that State).

The CPI welcomed the formation of the new Government and said that the National Front should determine its attitude to the Government, judging its policies and practices from issue to issue. It described the emergence of the BJP as the second largest party in the Lok Sabha and the largest in UP as a "grave threat to our secular democratic fabric, national unity and communal unit".

LOK SABHA RESULTS

	Party Position	
	1991 Poll	1989 Poll
Congress (I)	226	197
BJP	119	85
Janata Dal	55	143
Telugu Desam	13	2
CPI(M)	35	33
CPI	13	12
SJP	5	nil
AIADMK	11	11
JMM	6	3
Independents & others	25	41

By-elections: The broad pattern of May-June poll results was followed in the by-elections held on Nov 16, 1991. Originally elections were scheduled for 16 Lok Sabha and

58 State Assembly seats but the poll was countermanded in the New Delhi Parliamentary and two Assembly seats (one in Agartala (Tripura) and one in Andhra Pradesh). The Congress (I) was the top scorer for both Lok Sabha and Assembly by-elections. Mr Narasimha Rao was elected from Andhra Pradesh with a record majority of 5 lakh votes.

PUNJAB POLL BEFORE FEB 15

* The Union Home Minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, on Nov 11 categorically stated the Government's determination to hold elections in Punjab before February 15, 1992, despite militants' effort to thwart them at the behest of Pakistan. "Pakistan is inciting militants to create disturbances so that elections are not held. But we mean business. At no rate will we postpone the polls", Mr Chavan said. The Government is keen on having a representative government in Punjab with whom it could talk as there were a large number of splinter groups now complicating the matter.

J.K. Issue: Talking about the Jammu and Kashmir tangle, the Home Minister disclosed that paramilitary and security forces had been asked to flush out militants from Srinagar and other towns to help people who were not able to speak out for fear of the gun to express themselves freely on restoring normalcy.

Only a small "group of elements" was in favour of Pakistan, he said, adding that following atrocities by the militants, the local population had come to realise that independent Kashmir was also out of the question.

Akalis seek Right to Secede: The Akali Dal (Badal) decided recently to insert the clause "right to secede" in any future dialogue with the Union Government for a "peaceful negotiated settlement" of the Punjab problem. The party General Secretary said the Centre should take the initiative for a settlement with "all relevant parties, including the militants, as per their role and strength". It should also accept the conditions set in the resolution adopted in the Sikh conclave at Anandpur Sahib on Septem-

ber 1. The conclave had decided to boycott elections until and unless "repression" was stopped, general amnesty granted, 'black laws' repealed, para-military forces withdrawn and religious places freed from the "siege" of security forces.

The Akali leader said once their conditions were met and civil rights and democracy restored in Punjab, it would be possible to negotiate a peaceful settlement of the State's problem. The insertion of the clause "right to secede", he declared, was essential for the success of such talks and also to persuade the militants to take part in them.

STRATEGY TO TACKLE INSURGENCY

* A comprehensive strategy to tackle insurgency in the north-east, particularly in Assam, was chalked out at an all-party meeting held in Delhi on October 3, 1991. Besides the national and regional political parties, the Chief Ministers of the north-eastern States attended the meeting. It was felt that the situation in Assam and its neighbouring States was not conducive to development because of the menace of terrorism.

The Assam Chief Minister, Mr Hiteswar Saikia, claimed that "Operation Rhino" to flush out outlawed ULFA activists had yielded results. Several hundred ULFA militants were rounded up and weapons seized. However, he had directed mediators to wait for some time before starting a dialogue for the release of the hostages as the Centre has taken a tough attitude against the militants. Since "Operation Rhino" started, the ULFA activists were taking shelter in other areas, including Bangladesh.

At the urgent request of Assam's Chief Minister Saikia, the Centre in mid-September sent army units to Assam to tackle the ULFA challenge.

INDO-U.K. PACT ON MILITANTS

* In a major move against LTTE and Khalistani militants in London, India and Britain are to finalise a bilateral agreement shortly to enable confiscation of their assets, investigate their bank accounts and put down drug trafficking by militants,

the British High Commissioner to India, Mr David Goodall, disclosed recently. An Indian official delegation is expected to hold talks with the British authorities in London soon to conclude the "first of its kind" bilateral agreement. Britain feels concerned about the activities of Punjab militants and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and murders on that account on British soil, besides the trafficking in drugs.

The agreement is awaiting a final round of official talks. Only one or two outstanding issues need to be settled. As for LTTE, the group's office in London was supposed to be an information office. As long as they did not break the law, such offices would be allowed in Britain to operate without hindrance.

NEW SET-UP FOR KASHMIR

* Although no formal announcement has been made, a cell for Kashmir comprising the Union Home Minister, Mr S B Chavan, and the Union Communications Minister, Mr Rajesh Pilot, and a couple of trusted, well-informed officials, has virtually come into being. This cell is directly monitoring Kashmir developments and advising the State government on ways to counter the terrorists and create conditions for the return of normalcy in the Valley.

The Communication Minister is reported to have paid secret visits to undisclosed destinations to establish personal contact with leaders of militant outfits. He also met several Kashmir leaders and informed them that the Government would allow them to form their own government but within the framework of the Indian Constitution.

The State Government has been directed to pay special attention to cases of suspected militants now being held in detention without any proved charge against them. Hundreds of Kashmiri youth are reportedly languishing in jails now without any justification. The administration has been given instructions to ensure that innocents are not troubled in future.

INDIA-PAK 'CONSENSUS' ON SIR CREEK

* India and Pakistan have reached a general consensus on the basic principles to resolve the Sir Creek issue to the mutual satisfaction of both countries in accordance with conventions and international law.

At the end of the first round of Secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan in Rawalpindi the two countries agreed to meet again to discuss further the specifics of the land maritime boundaries. The next meeting will be held in New Delhi at a mutually convenient date. The talks, held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, were on the demarcation of the land boundary in the Sir Creek area and delimitation of the maritime boundary.

SIACHEN GLACIER ISSUE AGAIN

* The Siachen Glacier is in Indian territory but the Pakistanis occasionally attempt to occupy it. Recently, Indian Defence Minister Sharad Pawar blamed Pakistan for not taking any steps towards peacefully ending the continued hostilities in the glacier area. Addressing troops near the mouth of the strategic glacier, Mr Pawar said due to Pakistan's "stubborn attitude" India had been forced to divert sizable funds, which could have been used for developmental work, to protect the area.

Pakistan had been trying to enter the Siachen area for several years, but such attempts had been rebuffed in the past by the Indian armed forces. In future also, Pakistan would not be allowed to gain access to the area. The morale of the troops was high in performing the daunting task in the lap of the Himalayas.

KIDNAPPINGS GALORE

* Abductions and killings have been common in the Kashmir Valley for the past many months, the most notable case being that of Mr K.D. Duraiswamy, an I.O.C. Executive Director (who was later set free), and a senior bank manager. Imitating the militants in Kashmir, ULFA started a kidnapping spree with the same objective of getting their comrades

released from detention. On July 1 as many as 14 government officials, including a senior secretary to the Assam Government, were kidnapped by suspected ULFA militants even as the new Chief Minister, Mr Hiteswar Saikia, issued an appeal to the ULFA leaders to come for a dialogue.

ULFA, which had maintained a low profile right through the elections, hit the headlines when six of its top leaders masterminded two daring jailbreaks. According to intelligence sources, the kidnappings could be part of a State-wide plan of the organisation to express its frustration or disapproval of the installation of a government of the Congress.

IRAN BACKS INDIA ON J & K

* On November 11 Iran categorically stated that the Kashmir issue is an internal matter of India and it will not interfere in any domestic matter of any country. During a meeting with the visiting External Affairs Minister, Mr Madhavsingh Solanki, to Teheran the Iranian President, Mr Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, said "as far as internal matters of India are concerned, we do not wish to interfere."

At a one-to-one meeting Mr Solanki had with his Iranian counterpart, Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian leader, said the Kashmir issue was an "internal matter of India", a spokesman of the Indian delegation accompanying the external affairs minister disclosed.

The spokesman quoted Dr Velayati as saying "we have no desire to play a role" in resolving the issue between India and Pakistan, but if both the countries with whom Iran had good relations sought Teheran's help to find an amicable solution to the problem or any other dispute his country was willing to do so, the spokesman said.

59.5 PER CENT RESERVATIONS

* In September 1991 the P.V. Narasimha Government announced that there would be a total of 59.5 per cent reservations in government jobs for educationally, socially and economically backward classes. The

new feature of the proposal was the inclusion of the economic criterion as a yardstick. The Centre's proposal to enlarge the scope of the Mandal Commission's recommendations is a declaration of intent. The issue is now before the Supreme Court which is expected to give the final decision before long.

While Mr V.P. Singh's controversial announcement regarding reservations was made without consultation with other parties, Mr Narasimha's proposal was made after full consultations with other groups and was in fact the result of consensus.

The keynote of the latest decision is social justice, not merely the protection and promotion, of caste interests. So the "Mandal fever" in this case proved transitory. The Union Government's intention to provide for reservations for religious minorities also is prompted by the social justice theme.

The Centre informed the Supreme Court on Sept 25, 1991, that within the 27 per cent posts reserved for the socially and economically backward classes preference would be given to candidates belonging to poorer sections. In addition, 10 per cent of the posts would be reserved for other economically backward sections not covered by any existing scheme of reservations. The criteria for determining the categories of beneficiaries have yet to be fixed.

PRESIDENT'S RULE IN STATES

* The Central Government resorted to Article 356 of the Constitution (Imposition of President's Rule) five times during 1991—in Goa, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Assam and Meghalaya. In each case the State ministry was dismissed because of the breakdown of the Constitutional machinery and because the Government could not be carried on there in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Goa: Governor's Rule, which had been imposed when the Constitutional machinery broke down, was ended on January 29, 1991, when Mr Ravi Naik was sworn in as Chief

Minister heading a Congress Democratic Front Government. He was the fourth Chief Minister of the State since the elections to the Assembly in Nov, 1989.

Tamil Nadu: This State was put under President's rule on Jan 30, 1991, following the reported breakdown of the legal machinery and working of the law and order situation. The aim was political. The Governor, Mr S.S. Barnala, resigned.

Haryana: The third State to fall under the Centre's hammer was Haryana where the Chief Minister, Mr Om Parkash Chautala, lost his majority on April 6, 1991. Elections to the State Assembly were held on May 20, 1991, and the new ministry headed by Mr Bhajan Lal (Congress) took office.

Pondicherry: The Assembly was dissolved on March 4, 1991, after having been kept in "suspended animation". A new ministry was formed after the polls held in May, 1991.

Assam: The Centre imposed President's rule on Nov 27, 1990, and declared the entire State as a "disturbed area". The underground organisations, including ULFA and its collaborator, the NSCN, were banned. President's rule ended soon after the State went to the polls in May, 1991. Mr Saikia became the Chief Minister, heading a Congress team.

Meghalaya: This State was brought under Central rule on October 11, 1991, and the Assembly was kept under suspended animation that brought the curtain down on the bizarre political situation there. It was for the first time that the State was placed under Central rule since its inception in 1972.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

* Although the country's leaders were far too busy with domestic politics during the year to find time to improve foreign relations, the circumstances and the attitudes of our neighbours generally favoured cordial links and lessening of tensions all round. The exception was Pakistan.

Nepal: Indo-Nepalese relations showed notable improvement with the appointment of Mr K.P. Bhattarai as the interim Nepalese Prime Minister and the Nepali Congress's less rigid stand on the issue of the Indo-Nepal Trade and Transit Treaty. In the first free and fair general elections in Nepal, held in May 1991, the Nepali Congress carried the day and later formed the Government with Mr G.P. Koirala as Prime Minister instead of Mr Bhattarai who was defeated in the poll. But Mr Koirala is also pro-India and a democrat. He is out to establish friendship with India.

Bangladesh: In recent months, leaders of both India and Bangladesh have reaffirmed their desire to improve the relations between the two countries. Bangladesh's new Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, stated that resolution of all pending bilateral differences would mark the beginning of a new era of friendship. India's Foreign Secretary met her in Dhaka and conveyed a message of goodwill from the Indian Prime Minister. The Bangladesh leader specifically mentioned the Ganga waters issue stating that her country's northern areas were facing acute water shortage because of the "lean season".

China: India's ties with China also seem to be improving. Talks at the Foreign Secretary level, and also at the ministerial level indicated that both sides were anxious to solve the border dispute in a spirit of mutual accommodation. The Chinese Prime Minister Mr Li Peng, told the Chinese National People's Congress—the country's parliament—that China had entered one of the finest periods of ties with neighbouring countries.

A concrete step towards the resolution of the border differences is expected soon. Meanwhile, steps have been taken to increase the trade and transit of goods.

Indo-Pakistan Ties: Two rounds of talks between India and Pakistan have been held during the past few months and a "modest advance" is reported to have been made, but the main pending issues have not been

resolved. In fact, there were occasions when the relations became strained. This was due to the endless interference by Pakistan in India's internal affairs by arming and training militants operating in J & K and Punjab.

Even though the U.S. Government has also advised Pakistan not to train terrorists operating in Indian territory and desist from such acts, Islamabad has not given up its disruptive tactics. The Pakistan authorities have been harping on the Kashmir issue again and again at international forums and making a mockery of the Simla spirit.

NEW TWIST TO TIN BIGHA

* India is now completing its preparations for leasing out in perpetuity, the controversial area of Tin Bigha to Bangladesh while retaining residual sovereignty over it.

During his visit to Tin Bigha in Cooch-Behar district, on Nov 12 the Chief Minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, reiterated that the State Government was committed to fulfilling the terms of the 1982 Memorandum of Understanding between India and Bangladesh on Tin Bigha, which would provide the land link or corridor from Rangpur to Angarpota and Dahagram, Bangladesh enclaves in India.

The Chief Minister's elaboration that no time-limit had been set for handing over Tin Bigha on perpetual lease was a new twist to the complex issue. Bangladesh has been pressing India to complete the corridor arrangements in Tin Bigha at an early date. Mr Basu's statement on there being no time-limit is, therefore, a subtle move.

The background to Mr Basu's rider is provided by the fact that the Calcutta High Court is yet to pronounce judgement on the validity of leasing out Tin Bigha in perpetuity, for which India has agreed not to accept payment, since it will retain sovereign rights over the land. The 1982 MOU is a corollary to the 1974 Indira Gandhi-Mujibur Rehman agreement on enclaves which Bangladesh has ratified but India has

not. India's reason is that demarcation of some 52 km is yet to be completed.

CENSORSHIP RULES TO BE AMENDED

* The film censorship guidelines are to be amended to put greater curbs on exhibition of violence, sex and exploitation of women.

The proposed amendments have been recommended by a committee headed by the former Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) chairman. The existing guidelines were issued on January 7, 1978, and were last amended on August 11, 1989.

The amendments had been necessitated because of criticism that films were trying to show women in poor light, and there were excessive scenes of crime, violence and sex.

Even before the amendments are made, the Information and Broadcasting Minister, Mr Ajit Kumar Panja, announced that the representation of women on the Board will be increased from 25 to 35 per cent.

The Board sources said the new guidelines will also enlarge the scope of those referring to depiction of women. The guidelines, which refer to "depiction of women in ignoble servility to man or glorifying such servility", are sought to be enlarged to say that "scenes degrading or denigrating women in any manner" in films will not be allowed.

Scenes involving sexual violence against women, like attempt to rape or any other form of molestation or scenes of a similar nature are to be avoided, and if any such scene is germane to the theme of the picture, it will be reduced to the minimum and no details will be shown. The earlier provision had larger scope for violation of this guideline, which is proposed to be made tougher.

Another guideline is proposed to ensure that "words with dual meaning as obviously cater to baser instincts" will not be allowed.

ANTI-DEFECTION LAW UPHELD

* The Supreme Court on November 12, 1991, upheld the validity of the Anti-defection Law but main-

tained that the Speaker's order under the law was open to judicial review. The law had been introduced in 1985 as the 10th Schedule of the Constitution through the 52nd Constitution amendment. But two of the five judges on the Constitution Bench declared the law as unconstitutional on the ground that the amendment had not been ratified by at least one-half of the State legislatures, which was mandatory under Article 368 (2) of the Constitution. The majority said that despite Paragraph 7 of the 10th Schedule which bars judicial review, the amendment was not unconstitutional.

Paragraph 7 contains a provision which is independent of, and stands apart from, the 10th Schedule's main provisions which are intended to provide a "remedy for the evil of unprincipled and unethical political defections and, therefore, is a severable part". But the remaining provisions of the 10th Schedule, the judges said, could stand independently of Paragraph 7 and were complete in themselves, workable and not truncated.

Significantly, the majority judgement said that "paragraph 7 of the 10th schedule, in terms and in effect brings about a change in Articles 136, 226 and 227 of the Constitution and, therefore, the amendment would require to be ratified in accordance with Article 368 (2) of the Constitution."

"The provisions are salutary and are intended to strengthen the fabric of Indian parliamentary democracy by curbing unprincipled and unethical political defections", the majority judgement added.

While rejecting the contention that the entire 10th Schedule even with the exclusion of paragraph 7, was violative of the basic structure of the Constitution, the three judges held that the Speakers (or chairmen of upper Houses) act as a "tribunal" and their decisions in a defection case were open to judicial review.

The majority judgement affirmed that the Speaker's order (Paragraph 6(1)) was open to judicial review if it

involved allegations of *mala fides*, non-compliance of rules, of natural justice and perversity.

INTEGRATION COUNCIL SESSION

* The first meeting of the reconstituted National Integration Council, held on November 2, failed to resolve the basic problems it considered. The Council held the U.P. Government fully responsible for the protection of the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid structure at Ayodhya. After nine hours deliberations, during which several Chief Ministers and other leaders, spoke it resolved that the orders of the court on the land acquisition proceedings would be fully implemented and the judgement of the Allahabad High Court in the pending cases would not be violated.

The Council reaffirmed the resolve of the people to meet any challenge to the country's unity, integrity and the secular democratic polity. The resolution was endorsed by all the members of the Council, except the spokesman of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad who expressed reservations about the decisions.

BROADCASTING COUNCIL

* The Vardan Committee has suggested the setting up of an independent authority, the Broadcasting Council of India (BCI), for selecting agencies to give licences for new TV/Radio channels in different parts of the country to offer competition to Doordarshan.

The Chairman and members of the Council, it has said, should be eminent public men with unimpeachable probity. A list of seven eligibility criteria for the licencees has been suggested. These include the applicant company being a public limited company whose shares are listed in the stock market, the willingness of the company to abide by the programme guidelines to be spelt and to conform to the frequency and other technical matters; the applicant company should not be affiliated to any political party or religious or

communal party.

INDIA'S LINKS WITH REPUBLICS

* India has recognised the Baltic republics as independent countries. Even within the framework of the Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty of 1971 there are clear openings for closer links with the Soviet republics which have become sovereign and independent of Moscow. This fact was disclosed by the Minister of State for External Affairs at a discussion on the implications of the recent developments in Moscow. He threw light on New Delhi's thinking on the impact of the decentralisation process now under way.

The President of Uzbekistan, Mr Islam Karimov, visited New Delhi in August during which two agreements were signed with that republic on economic and cultural cooperation. India attached great importance to the visit in view of the "emergence of Soviet republics as sovereign entities and the need to have mutually beneficial relations with them".

LOK SABHA HAILS COUP FAILURE

* The Lok Sabha on August 22 congratulated the heroic people of the Soviet Union on restoring democratic values. The failure of the coup in Moscow was hailed with loud thumping by Congress, BJP and Janata Dal members, while the Left parties were subdued in their response.

The opposition sharply attacked the Government for its hasty response to the events in the USSR, and charged it of misreading the situation. The BJP hailed the failure of the undemocratic coup, the restoration of President Gorbachov and the fact that the Soviet Parliament had asserted its authority. More important, the people of the Soviet Union had triumphed and shown remarkable physical and moral courage in defying the forces of authoritarianism.

CPM-CHINA LINKS

* Reliable reports indicate that the Communist Party of China is making a bid to take the place of the Com-

munist Party of the Soviet Union (now in ruins) as the principle centre of the World Communist movement. Two high-level CPM delegations from India have visited China in quick succession. The visits are stated to be pointers to the new shape of things to come.

Mr Anil Biswas, member of the CPM's Central Committee, who visited China in September, disclosed that senior members of the International Liaison Department of the Chinese Party are holding ideological and political discussions with delegations from other Third World Communist parties too. Though the invitation to the CPM came before the upheavals in the Soviet Union the CPC's request to send the second delegation, which included four CPM politburo members, was made in the wake of the collapse of socialism in the Soviet Union.

Chinese inquiries about the Left Front's repeated electoral success in West Bengal assume significance in the context of the alienation of the Communist parties from the masses in the Soviet Union and East European countries. The tactics adopted by the CPM could be a general guide for the survival of communist parties elsewhere in Third World countries.

DASTARDLY MURDER OF RAJIV GANDHI

* India's former Prime Minister and President of the Congress (I) was assassinated on May 21 at Sriperumbudur, near Madras, shocking the country and the world beyond measure. The weapon used was a belt bomb in plastic and the assassin was a woman who was a member of a suicide squad and she also died on the spot. The killer had at least two accomplices.

Official sources stated that the first of its kind vest jacket belt bomb used in the assassination was made abroad by a highly professional and skilled group of experts and brought to India specifically to kill Mr Gandhi. The technology used in the making of the bomb and its highly complex system of operation were not available in India with any

militant group and the device must have been smuggled into the country. "This is no local job and a highly skilled and trained terrorist group abroad must have been behind the blast", an investigator said.

Justice J.S. Verma of the Supreme Court was appointed to investigate whether there were any security lapses at the time of the assassination.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by the CBI Director visited Sri Lanka and held discussions with Intelligence Officials there for possible clues to the conspiracy behind the assassination.

Violence in wake of murder: Tamil Nadu and some parts of Andhra Pradesh were rocked by violence in the wake of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. The Andhra Pradesh Government announced a judicial enquiry into the violence which broke out in the State. An official committee assessed the damage in order to recommend relief to the victims.

MANN SEEKS MINORITIES UNION

* The Shiromani Akali Dal leader Simranjeet Singh Mann has cautioned that unless the religious minorities join hands to strengthen each other, "they cannot continue to exist in India". Mr Mann was briefly arrested by the UP Government in Ghaziabad at the end of October for trying to proceed to Ayodhya. Mr Mann and a delegation of his party wanted to go to the site of the controversial mosque-temple structure to show solidarity with those opposed to the demolition of the Babri mosque.

"Unless the minorities join hands, they will not be able to confront the fascist Hindu fundamentalists", said Mr Mann. "One sword only respects another sword. This means Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and others must come together to protect themselves. His party will be working towards this end.

INDIA BLAMED FOR SUMMIT CANCELLATION

* The sixth SAARC summit was cancelled at the last minute. Sri Lanka

alleged on November 12 that it was the "adamant" attitude of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao that led to the cancellation of the summit scheduled to be held in Colombo on November 8.

The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister claimed that India had rejected an "earnest appeal" by other member-States that the summit be held with the Foreign Secretary of Bhutan representing his King. The summit was cancelled over the non-participation of the King.

"It must be stated that India's decision at the eleventh hour that the summit could not proceed until all seven leaders were personally present was not borne out by past practice", the Sri Lanka Minister contended. The then Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr Muhammad Khan Junejo, had represented the late President Zia-ul-Haq both at the Bangalore and Kathmandu summits, while the Lankan Prime Minister, Mr D.B. Wijetunge, had represented the President, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, at the Male summit.

EDUCATION POLICY

* The Acharya Ramamurti Committee Report which was submitted to the Union Government during the past year suggested a fresh look and review of the National Education Policy (NEP). The report, titled "Towards an Enlightened and Humane Society", covers all aspects of the existing education policy.

The Committee has stressed the need to concentrate on vocational education, specially in the rural areas. Another important recommendation asks the Government to examine the scope for making universal elementary education a fundamental right and ensure a fair deal to the educationally backward minorities.

Measures have been suggested for promoting women's education. The committee has recommended integrated courses of vocationalisation. Students, it is suggested, should be involved in the decision-making process. Facilities for instruction to linguistic minorities have also been suggested. Mr Narasimha Rao recently promised radical reforms of the education system.

Round-up of International Affairs

MAJOR EVENTS IN BRIEF

Collapse of Soviet Union—End of Communism—Chinese Hardliners' tough posture—Major drive for disarmament—Bid for Peace in W. Asia—U.S. warning to Pakistan—Concern over Kashmir—Peace in Cambodia.

The year 1991 will go down in history as the year in which the USSR collapsed, the constituent republics of the Union broke away from Moscow one by one and the elaborate edifice of Communism was shattered. There were endless internal dissensions; and there was much criticism of Mr Mikhail Gorbachov leading to his fall from grace. There was a virtual rebellion against Moscow's dominance of the republics. The principal opposition leader was Mr Boris Yeltsin, President of the largest Russian republic. There was widespread disillusionment against Mr Gorbachov's policies of Perestroika and Glasnost. Partly because of the backing by Western countries, which regarded Mr Gorbachov as the best bet, and also because of Mr Yeltsin's support during the crucial weeks of August, 1991 and in the subsequent period, Mr Gorbachov survived. In mid-August there was an attempt to stage a coup against him; a group of malcontents and hardliners ousted Mr Gorbachov and temporarily assumed control of the Kremlin but for lack of support by the defence forces and the people in general, the coup proved abortive and collapsed in three days. Mr Yeltsin was the principal agent in quelling the coup. Mr Yeltsin emerged as the real strong man in the Soviet Union. The two leaders reached an understanding regarding power sharing.

China felt upset at the failure of the hardliners' coup bid. On their part Chinese leaders tightened their control over the dissidents and pro-democratic elements in their country and declared that China would remain a stronghold of Communism. The Soviet Union has undergone political and ideological transformation; it has become a Union of Sovereign Equal States (USES). The words "Soviet Socialism" have been dropped from its name.

The failure of the coup attempt by Soviet hardliners came as a blow to the Chinese conservatives and it was feared that the event could lead to tighter political controls in Beijing. There has been growing anxiety in China over the dramatic developments in Moscow. China is the new Centre of Communism. China, out to win friends and establish its bonafides, promoted friendly relations with Nepal and Bangladesh.

An important step towards disarmament, especially of nuclear weapons, was announced by President Bush on Sept 27, 1991. He ordered major cuts in nuclear weapons. Britain promised to scrap short-range nuclear missiles. There was a matching response from Moscow.

On October 30-31 the long-awaited and U.S.-sponsored Middle East Peace Conference was held in Madrid. The conference did not achieve much and there were bitter exchanges between Israeli and Arab spokesmen. Israel declared that it would not surrender any part of the territory it had seized in the 1967 war. The talks between the rival parties will continue.

The Cambodian warring factions and 18 nations signed a peace treaty in Paris on October 24 and initiated a historic UN operation. Prince Sihanouk resumed office as Head of State.

Similarly, there was an agreement between the Super Powers to cut off arms supplies to the rival parties in Afghanistan with effect from January 1, 1992. The UN was urged to work with the Afghans to arrange a transition mechanism that would work for a credible electoral process.

The sixth SAARC summit, scheduled to be held in Colombo early in November, collapsed following the King of Bhutan's reported inability to attend the session. Talks

were in progress at the close of the year to hold the summit at a later date.

A notable development in the eastern region was the restoration of the parliamentary system in Bangladesh. This was another step towards democracy, like the general election verdict in Nepal where the poll marked the final consummation of the popular struggle for multi-party democracy.

Details of Notable Events

MOSCOW COUP & AFTERMATH

* Dramatic, breath-taking developments in the Soviet Union in 1991 signalled the death of communism and end of the once-mighty Soviet Communist Party. With his prestige and influence fast declining, President Mikhail Gorbachov has been reduced to a pathetic figure. One republic after another declared independence from Moscow; his desperate efforts to hold the country together have proved fruitless. Meanwhile, Mr Boris Yeltsin, President of Russia, has emerged as the real centre of power.

The massive and highly centralised structure of the Soviet Union has been dismantled and turned into a loose confederation of willing sovereign republics. On September 5 the full parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, in effect disbanded itself. The inner parliament (Supreme Soviet) was also dissolved. The parliament transferred all powers to the republics-dominated structure until the signing of a new treaty of union of sovereign States held together largely by an economic and military alliance. The arrangement is for the period of transition. The proposed treaty of union of States allows the republics freedom to choose the form of their participation but preserves a single armed force and singular control over nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

The historic decision heralding

the end of the Soviet Union as it has existed since the consolidation of the October, 1917, Bolshevik revolution came in response to the upheavals sparked off by the August 19 CPSU hardliners coup. The old system is being replaced by a western style market economy. The Congress adopted a resolution based on the key elements of the seven-point plan proposed by Mr Gorbachov and leaders of 10 republics.

The new power structure comprises a bicameral parliament, a State Council and an inter-republican committee. The resolution clearly stated that there was need to support the republics' aspirations for recognition as subjects of international law. They seek membership of the United Nations.

Among the republics which sought immediate admission into the UN are the three Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia whose independence declarations have been recognised by the Kremlin, the Russian federation and also by several foreign countries, including the USA.

Five principles to guide future U.S. relations with the Soviet Union were unveiled on September 5. These urge Moscow to reform itself along lines consistent with democratic values and principles. The US has urged officials of the Soviet Union and its republics to respect the existing borders, both internal and external. The U.S. supports democracy and the rule of law, the need to safeguard human rights, particularly the equal treatment of minorities, and respect for international obligations.

Abortive Coup: The Soviet Union witnessed historic events for three days (August 19 to 21). A group of hardliners suddenly staged a coup, seized power, deposed reformist Gorbachov (who was then on a holiday in Crimea), promulgated an emergency for six months and issued a series of restrictive orders. The explanation given by the coup leaders was a fake one—that Mr Gorbachov was "too ill" to perform his professional functions.

However, for lack of popular support, the refusal of the defence forces to carry out the directives of the hardliner usurpers against their own people and the widespread opposition within the Soviet Union as well as by most countries of the world, the coup collapsed on August 21. The Soviet parliament formally reinstated Mr Gorbachov as President. The Soviet parliament ruled that the removal of President Gorbachov from power was unlawful and urged action against those responsible for the "unconstitutional act". The coup leaders were arrested. They are to be tried for treason.

The return of Mr Gorbachov was in every sense a triumph of democracy and of the people's will; it marked the defeat of reactionary elements. The KGB chief was also held. The Minister for the Interior and three others committed suicide because they were involved in the coup directly or indirectly.

Post-Coup Developments: Significant developments have taken place in the Soviet Union after the abortive coup and the return of Mr Gorbachov to power.

1. On August 23, 1991, Mr Gorbachov announced that he and the Russian leader, Mr Boris Yeltsin, had agreed to form a coalition government in a power sharing arrangement.

2. Mr Gorbachov has not only stepped down from the prestigious post of General Secretary of the Communist Party (CPSU) but has also dissolved the party. This marks the virtual end of the Communist Party which dominated the USSR for several decades. It is a notable setback to Communism in the whole world.

3. Three Baltic States—Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia—and several other small republics associated with the USSR for a long time, have declared themselves sovereign and independent of Moscow. The USSR is now a truncated State—a pale shadow of its earlier shape. Since World War II, Soviet domination of the Baltics incited hatred for com-

munism.

4. Mr Gorbachov announced a 7-point plan for drastic reforms and formation of a confederation of sovereign States. The aim was to transform the Soviet Union into a Union held together by an economic and military alliance.

5. On September 5 the Soviet Parliament disbanded the entire USSR. A new structure in the shape of a loose confederation of sovereign republics was constituted.

Sweeping Reforms: Mr Gorbachov proposed democratic reforms starting with the personnel to prevent recurrence of a coup attempt. He proposed suspension of the law on the KGB and its modification which had brought about the coup attempt. He called for early conclusion of the new union treaty. On the economic front the Soviet leader called for full freedom to enterprises and land to all those who wanted to work on it.

He also called for an economic agreement between all the 15 republics, including those not signing the union treaty, to maintain the common economic area existing for decades. Preparations for Soviet parliamentary elections and working out a new constitution should begin as soon as a new union treaty is signed.

Soviets to Quit Cuba: Another significant development has been the decision of the Soviet Union to pull out troops from Cuba with which the Kremlin has maintained close military relations since the early 1960s. The Soviet Union will now maintain only economic and political ties. The Soviet Union will also stop military supplies to Cuba. The Soviet move will favourably affect American attitude towards Moscow. The Soviet Union has been Cuba's political mentor and main economic supplier for three decades.

Warsaw Pact Dissolved: Leaders of six Warsaw Pact countries signed a protocol dissolving the Soviet-dominated alliance that was founded 36 years ago as a counterweight to NATO. The meeting to sign the documents dissolving the

alliance's remaining political structures came three months after the Warsaw Pact scrapped its integrated military command.

Of the original eight Warsaw Pact founding members, Albania dropped out in 1964 and East Germany ceased to exist after unification with West Germany in 1990. "The abolition of the Warsaw Pact is like the funeral of a very old man whose death has been expected for a long time", said the Bulgarian President. It is clear proof that communism is leaving for ever and "can never come back", he added.

DANGEROUS FALL-OUT

* The collapse of the USSR generally and the sharp erosion in Moscow's authority have revived fears of ethnic conflicts, border disputes, nuclear arms in the hands of factions and the possible emergence of Mr Boris Yeltsin as a bully at the helm of Russia. "Everything that has been created for centuries by our ancestors and by our hands, is collapsing", reformist lawmakers contend. The fear is that the ethnic and border disputes will burst into a civil war and, in the worst case, factions might gain control of nuclear arms.

Many ethnic groups also fear losing their newly gained freedom to a resurgent Russia under its President, Mr Yeltsin, who has expanded his authority after leading the resistance to the botched coup. Mr Gorbachov sought to allay those fears.

Speakers from Armenia told Parliament they were worried about new violence in the disputed border area with Azerbaijan. In recent years, territorial disputes also led to ethnic bloodshed in Georgia, Moldavia and along the border between Uzbekistan and Kirgizia. With central authority prostrate, and the armed forces possibly reluctant to intervene, fighting could worsen in hot spots around the country. Even the republic leaders working closely with Mr Gorbachov and Mr Yeltsin voiced concern over some of the sweeping decrees and puzzling statements from the Russian federation government.

The Russians themselves are

worried that the second most populous republic, the Ukraine, might use a clause in its independence declaration to seize control of nuclear weapons on its territory. We should remember that we live in a country that is full of nuclear warheads, and many nuclear weapons are in the Ukraine", said the reformist mayor of northern Russian city of Leningrad.

CHINA'S HARDLINERS TIGHTEN GRIP

* The failure of the coup mounted by Soviet hardliners to overthrow Mr Mikhail Gorbachov has been a blow to China's conservative Communist leadership and will lead to even tighter political controls, according to China experts. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) was ordered to remain on first degree alert to deal with possible domestic social unrest in the wake of the abortive Soviet coup.

There is growing anxiety in China over the dramatic developments in the Soviet Union. Beijing leaders fear possible repercussions in their country. News of the Soviet President Gorbachov's resignation from the post of General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) and of the dissolution of the Central Committee of the CPSU are causing anxiety in China. Once again the Chinese are seeing North Korea as one of its hardline Communist allies though, until now, the Chinese have also tried to keep pace with the Soviet Union in developing ties with South Korea.

U.S.-India Military Ties: Following the collapse of the USSR, which was for years India's principal supplier of weapons and other military hardware (about 70 per cent), both the USA and New Delhi have reportedly come to an understanding under which a new era of defence cooperation may start soon. Even at present the two countries have been working in fairly close military forces cooperation but this was on a small scale. This is now expected to expand into extensive strategic cooperation between the two countries for mutual benefit. The

package of military understandings includes visits by Chiefs of Staff on an alternating basis, regular strategic symposiums; staff talks between the two armies; reciprocal training and personnel exchange programmes. Washington regards India as one of the six regional power centres of the world.

W. ASIAN PEACE CONFERENCE

* The much-publicised West Asian Peace Conference, for which the U.S., with the collaboration of the Soviet Union, had worked hard, did not prove a success. The two-day talks in Madrid (Spain), which started with much hope on October 30, ended on November 1, with bitter exchanges of words between the leaders of Israel, notably Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, and spokesmen of Arab nations, especially the Syrian Foreign Minister.

The conference terminated without agreement on where face-to-face Arab-Israeli negotiations vital to ending 43 years of bloodshed in the region. Israel declared that it would not surrender even an inch of the territory it seized in the 1967 war and the Arabs rightly stated that there could be no settlement unless the Arab areas were restored. In dramatic outbursts, the Israeli Prime Minister branded Syria a "tyranny" and the Syrian leader brandished a "wanted" poster showing Mr Shamir (in 1947) as an underground leader sought on terrorism charges by the British mandate authorities in Palestine.

S. ARABIA TO RESTORE TIES WITH PLO

* Saudi Arabia on October 25 pledged to restore ties with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which is a crucial step for the PLO and the Palestinian cause. The Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al-Faisal, made the pledge during a meeting with the PLO executive members in Damascus.

The surprise talks were the first since the PLO enraged Riyadh by backing Iraq against a Saudi based coalition in the conflict over Kuwait. Describing the talks as a major step in

the PLO's return to the fold, he said the Arab world could now bury its pre-occupation with the divisions of the war and focus on solving the Palestinian problem.

SOVIETS BACK PAK ON N. MOVE

* For the first time, the Soviet Union has voted against India on the nuclear issue. In the U.N. Political and Security Committee on November 11, 1991, it supported a proposal to establish a nuclear-free zone in South Asia which was approved by an overwhelming majority in the committee. India, Bhutan and Mauritius opposed the resolution sponsored by Pakistan and Bangladesh, which was carried by 104 votes to three, with 25 abstentions. The Soviet Union had, for several years, abstained on such resolutions.

The resolution recommends to the General Assembly to urge all South Asian States to make every effort to establish a nuclear-free zone in the region and, in the meantime, refrain from any act contrary to the objective. It also calls on nuclear weapons States to respond positively to the proposal and to cooperate in the establishments of such a zone.

Explaining India's principled opposition to the resolution, its representative argued that the global reach of nuclear weapons and their deployment diminished the importance of regional nuclear weapon-free zones. Nuclear disarmament, India has contended, is not a regional but a global issue.

The Soviet Union supported regional disarmament efforts towards reducing nuclear arsenals with the goal of eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons. But such zones should be established in line with the specific conditions of the countries of the region and should reflect the interests of the States concerned. It should also be negotiated with all countries in the region.

The US representative said his country's support to the resolution does not constitute a blanket endorse-

ment of such zones on a universal basis.

INDIA REJECTS PAK NUCLEAR MOVE

* The Government of India turned down, for good reasons, Pakistan's proposal for a five-nation conference (including India) to resolve the issue of nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia. A spokesman said there was nothing new in the Pakistan Prime Minister's proposal; it was a mere rehash of old offers and well known Pakistani posture adopted during the past several years. Mr Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistan Prime Minister, is evidently anxious for resumption of US aid which was suspended in October, 1990, and without which Pakistan is finding itself in financial difficulties.

Even while pursuing a nuclear weapons programme secretly, Pakistan has been pretending to be a sincere champion of nuclear non-proliferation. India has described this as yet another propaganda exercise and a ploy for diverting international pressure to give up the programme.

UN APPROVES RESOLUTIONS ON N-FREE ZONE

* The Political and Security Committee of the UN General Assembly on Nov 13 approved resolutions calling for establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East and a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean.

The resolution on the Middle East urges all regional States to place their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. It was approved without vote.

The resolution on the Indian Ocean also reiterated its decision to convene the United Nations conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo. It was approved by 102 votes to four with 28 abstentions. Japan, France, Britain and the United States voted against it.

Another approved resolution affirmed that regional and global approaches to disarmament complement each other and should, therefore, be pursued simultaneously.

CAMBODIAN PEACE TREATY

* Four warring factions in Cambodia and 18 nations signed a Cambodian peace treaty on October 24 at Paris, vowing to end the 13-year civil war (it killed one million persons) and initiating a historic UN operation to arrange demobilisation and free elections.

Signing the treaty were the four rival Cambodian faction leaders, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the five UN Security Council permanent members, and 13 nations that worked to end the hostilities. "A dark page of history has been turned", French President Francois Mitterrand said at the signing ceremony. But the unhappy history warrants extreme caution. The accord also reaffirmed a plan under which the UN would oversee the demobilisation of 70 per cent of the troops and block attempts to rig elections to elect a new government. The Indonesian Foreign Minister said the accord commenced a new era of relationship in S-E Asia.

On November 20, 1991, Prince Norodom Sihanouk resumed office as Cambodia's Head of State until the presidential elections are held.

COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT

* The week-long 11th Commonwealth Heads of Government summit ended at Harare on October 22 after pledging to combat the grave threats posed to the unity and communal harmony of nations by "forms of intolerance" unleashed the world over the post-Cold War era. The Commonwealth leaders also agreed on a programme-managed approach to lifting sanctions against S. Africa.

On the economic front the 50-nation Commonwealth pointed to the necessity of a successful conclusion of the Uruguay round of negotiations and urged industrialised countries to remove protectionist barriers.

The leaders welcomed the resurgence of democratic ideals, but expressed concern at the emergence of ethnic chauvinism and other forms of intolerance. The leaders agreed to do everything practicable to combat discrimination in all its forms. They also

agreed to work to promote democracy, human rights, mutual tolerance and rule of law. The summit fully backed India's proposal to combat terrorism and draw up a functional cooperation plan for intensifying development in member-countries.

DEFEAT OF A HERO

* Mr Kenneth Kaunda, the great patriot and hero, was ousted in Zambia's presidential and parliamentary elections on November 1. The victorious candidate was Mr Frederick Chiluba, leader of the Movement for Multi-party Democracy, who was sworn in as Zambia's President following his landslide victory.

Mr Kaunda had ruled Zambia for 27 years—since the country gained independence. He will continue to work for the United National Independence Party now in the opposition. Thus the era of Zambia's "Big Man" is over. He was described by many as one of Africa's last post-independence autocrats. There was increasing public disaffection with Mr Kaunda's ruinous economic policies. Mr Kaunda was the founding father of his country. His defeat is the result of the democratic sentiments that have been sweeping through the African continent during the past 18 months.

NO MORE ARMS FOR KABUL

* The Soviet Union and the US announced recently they would cut off arms supplies to warring sides in Afghanistan from January 1, 1992, and encourage a political settlement of the crisis. The Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Boris Pankin, and US Secretary of State James Baker also announced that their countries would restrict their assistance to humanitarian aid only.

In a joint statement issued after talks in Moscow, Mr Pankin and Mr Baker said a broad-based government through an electoral process respecting the Afghan political and Islamic traditions should be set up in Kabul. The two countries requested the UN to work with the Afghans to convene a credible and impartial

transition mechanism whose functions would include directing and managing a credible electoral process. They supported the UN Secretary-General's statement on ways to settle the Afghan crisis and promised to promote his efforts to contribute in practical ways to the early resolution of the conflict. The political settlement should ensure "an independent and non-aligned Afghanistan at peace with its neighbours".

Afghan rebels approach Moscow: Afghan rebels visited Moscow on November 1 for talks on ending their civil war with the Soviet-backed Kabul Government. They hoped the recent political changes in the Soviet Union might lead to a breakthrough. The leader of the 11-man rebel delegation urged that the Soviets must accept that the rise of an Islamic government in my homeland will be one of the dependable guarantees of peace.

Another delegation representing Iran-based rebel groups met the Soviet Foreign Minister and the Russian President, Mr Boris Yeltsin. One factor limiting the chances for progress was the absence of several powerful rebels, including Pakistan-based militant Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who has given only tentative support to the effort.

The rebel leader hoped talks could lead to final establishment of peace in Afghanistan. The August putsch in Moscow and the shift in power to Russian leaders offered a new chance to end the bloodshed.

US WARNING TO PAK ON KASHMIR

* A U.S. official on July 3 reiterated the US concern over reported Pakistani Government support for terrorism in Kashmir. "Reports of support for Kashmiri militants continue. We would find any such activity dangerous and destabilising", the official affirmed.

Administration officials also made it clear that it is impractical for Pakistan to keep harping on Kashmir because the UN resolution of the for-

ties referred not only to a plebiscite but also to a host of other things which did not take place.

Administration officials explained that in 1949, the UN resolutions were supported by everybody—by the Security Council, India and Pakistan—or so it seemed for dealing with the Kashmir Problem. As it turned out, the Kashmir problem was not dealt with in that fashion. It did not work out. In 1972 India and Pakistan signed the Simla accord, which included some provisions on Kashmir. These stated specifically that this problem should be dealt with bilaterally.

AZAD KASHMIR'S "OPEN WAR"

* A crisis has been developing between Islamabad and the Azad Kashmir regime. The Pakistan Government warned the caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK), Mr Muntaz Hussein Rathore, of "severe action" if he failed to step down. In full exercise of its powers, the Pakistan National Government dismissed Mr Rathore and arrested him for defiance of directions. Mr Rathore, who alleged massive rigging in the recent Assembly elections in POK, refused to relinquish office and announced an "open war" against the Pakistan Premier, Mr Nawaz Sharif.

MAJOR CUTS IN N-WEAPONS

* Belatedly reflecting changes in the political arena, U.S. President George Bush announced on September 27, 1991, several dramatic actions to lower nuclear era military tensions. He ordered elimination of all U.S. battlefield nuclear weapons and called on Moscow to make a matching gesture. The collapse of Communism had inspired the most fundamental change in nuclear forces in over 40 years. He urged the Soviet Union to quickly negotiate a ban on the most dangerous atomic weapons of all—land-based, long-range missiles armed with multiple warheads.

Britain joined the US in promising to scrap short-range nuclear missiles, but said it was pressing ahead with a plan to update its nuclear submarine fleet to maintain a minimum

deterrent.

Mr Bush directed that with immediate effect U.S. strategic bombers would "stand down from their alert posture". These warplanes have been flying rotating missions throughout the Cold War years.

Mr Bush remained committed to two other costly and controversial weapon systems, the B-2 bomber and elements of the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), the anti-missile plan known as "Star Wars". The mainstay of Mr Bush's proposal was elimination and destruction of the so-called "Theatre weapons", the tactical nuclear missiles that can be launched from land, bombers, submarines and ships to hit short-range enemy targets.

Meanwhile, world leaders welcomed Mr Bush's plans for sweeping cuts in US nuclear weapons as a historic and courageous initiative. Moscow promised it would reciprocate to help make the world a safer place. The NATO Secretary-General described the proposals for the most dramatic unilateral American arms reductions since the Cold War as a "milestone in building a peaceful, free and cooperative Europe".

CHINA AND NEPAL DRAW CLOSER

* The Nepalese Prime Minister, Mr Girija Prasad Koirala, has lauded "friendly China's significant contributions to developments in Nepal" and said cooperation and understanding between the two countries will be further strengthened in future. Mr Koirala said the traditional and historical relations between Nepal and China should be geared towards the path of progress in accordance with the wishes of the people of the two countries "under the changed context in the world".

Avenues for broadening mutual confidence, understanding and cooperation have been developed.

According to Mr Koirala, the relations, based on the principles of national sovereignty, integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of each other, would help Nepal to move ahead on the path of under-

standing. The Chinese *Charge d'affaires* said recently that China and Nepal were intimate and friendly neighbours. Through the ages the people of the two countries have been living in harmony.

CHINA AFFIRMS SUPPORT TO PAK

* A top-ranking Chinese leader has assured Islamabad of continued support despite rapid changes in world affairs, but repeated the Chinese formula on Kashmir, namely, that it is a dispute left over by history and should be settled through peaceful negotiations.

A member of the six-man Standing Committee of the Chinese communist party, Mr Song Ping, who visited Pakistan, assured Pakistani leaders that "China will always be a trustworthy friend of Pakistan in its cause of maintaining national sovereignty, independence and national construction".

The official Xinhua news agency also quoted him as saying that the Kashmir issue could be solved fairly and reasonably through peaceful consultations "so long as Pakistan and India have patience on it".

MAJOR CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY

* During his visit to Moscow in mid-September, Secretary of State James Baker, faced with the magnitude of the economic problems of the Soviet Union, quietly indicated a major change in US policy. A firm pledge to adopt radical economic reforms rather than implementation of new programmes, is all that is needed now to receive US financial assistance.

President Bush had earlier insisted that a commitment was not enough; irreversible economic reforms must precede any US aid other than technical and humanitarian food aid. The IMF, World Bank, Bank of European Reconstruction and the OECD had taken a similar tough stand, arguing that without actual reforms, any aid would be wasted.

Mr Baker promised both economic and political support to Mr

Gorbachov, the Russian republic leader, Mr Boris Yeltsin, and other Republican leaders who were ready to implement radical economic and political reforms.

UN ALLOWS IRAQ TO SELL OIL

* The Security Council has authorised Baghdad to sell oil worth \$ 1.6 billion to finance import of food, medicine and other essential humanitarian needs under strict UN supervision. The Council made it obligatory for the purchasers to make full payment in an account to be set up and operated by the Secretary-General.

Even if Iraq is able to sell oil worth \$ 1.6 billion over a period of six months as stipulated in the resolution, the actual amount available for imports may be less than \$ 900 million. About one-half of the proceeds received from the sale of oil will go to the compensation fund out of which war reparations are to be paid.

Payments are also to be made for expenses incurred by the UN to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and facilitate the return of Kuwaiti property seized by Baghdad.

SINO-SOVIET BORDER PACT

* The Soviet Union and China signed in May 1991 an agreement on the eastern sector of their 7,000 km-long border. The Kremlin ceremony was attended by the Soviet President, Mr Gorbachov, and the Chinese Communist Party leader, Mr Jiang Zemin, who is also chairman of the Chinese Central Military Council.

Following Mr Gorbachov's visit to Beijing in 1989, the two countries have normalised relations and continued to develop them in fields of politics, economy, culture, science and defence.

N. KOREA—NEW NUCLEAR POWER

* Despite international pressure on North Korea, the Communist Government appears as determined as ever to become a nuclear military power. This conclusion is widely accepted even after the most recent round of direct talks in Pyongyang, where Prime Minister Chung Won

Shik of South Korea made a direct appeal to North Korea to halt its nuclear weapons programme and agree to international inspections of its nuclear installations.

North Korea has denied that it is developing a nuclear bomb but the Government of President Kim Il Sung is generally assumed to be pursuing a nuclear programme in an effort to preserve its legitimacy.

'I have a feeling it's inevitable', said a Western diplomat who monitors North Korea. 'The more a campaign is orchestrated to pressurise North Korea the more they may see nukes as a way to hold on to their power.'

Analysts differ on how soon North Korea can produce a bomb at its main nuclear research centre at Yongbyon north of Pyongyang. Some Americans and Japanese say it could be five or six years, but the South Koreans say it could be a year or two.

U.N. AT DELICATE POINT

* The UN stands at 'a delicate point' in the search for a new international order of peace and justice that would promote human rights and eradicate poverty and other social plagues. This view was expressed by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in a message on the occasion of UN Day on October 24. He noted with gratification that the role of the organisation is no longer peripheral and its purpose is no longer questioned. It has proved both its relevance and credibility.

'As we observe UN Day this year, we see new horizons opening for humanity's political advance', he added. 'While an old axis of conflict has disappeared, a volatile situation raises new questions pertaining to stability. We do not forget the suffering and violence that continue to blot the human scene.'

He appealed to the leaders of nations to ensure that the freedoms recently gained were devoted to ends conducive to human welfare. He recalled the principles laid down in the UN Charter, saying that today the mandate of the organisation had

gained further scope and come into sharper focus.

Change in U.N. set-up? Never before in the history of the United Nations has change seemed as imminent as it does in the 46th anniversary year of its founding. But widespread agreement over adjusting the UN to new global realities after it has survived the battering of the Cold War breaks down on what needs alteration and how much.

The 'haves' clinging to the form of the UN Charter they wrote in 1943 and the 'have-nots' want its revision. The five permanent members of the Security Council oppose proposals to open their exclusive club to new members or to lose the privileged right of veto.

Looking for entry are those rich nations who lost the Second World War—Germany, Italy and Japan—as well as other populous Third World countries which say the Council should break its 1945 mould and reflect the present realities. The Big Powers think global cooperation will follow naturally. But Third World countries harbour fears of northern hegemony.

Inability to overcome the permanent five's resistance to substantive change at a time of transition has given birth to a proposal for an administrative overhaul, launched this year by a 22-nation group of industrialised and developing countries.

A peaceful resolution of regional conflicts in Cambodia or Western Sahara is one of the positive spin offs of cooperation. But Third World concerns on debt and developmental aid remain.

NEPAL'S POLL VERDICT

* The hilly kingdom of Nepal held on May 12 its first multi-party general election in 32 years for the 205-member *Pratinidhi Sabha* (National Assembly). The polling was peaceful, the electorate numbered 11.1 million. Regarded as the final consummation of the popular struggle for multi-party democracy begun in the spring of 1990, the battle of the hustings had as main rivals—the Nepali Congress and the Communist

Party of Nepal

A feature of the poll verdict was the defeat of the then Prime Minister, Dr K P Bhattarai, by a narrow margin of 751 votes at the hands of Mr Madan Bhandari, General Secretary of the United Communist Party of Nepal (Marxist Leninist). Dr Bhattarai was replaced as the party leader by Mr Girija Prasad Koirala, 65, Congress Secretary-General who had spent 14 years in jail for activity against the monarchy.

BANGLADESH CHOOSES PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

* On September 19, 1991, Bangladesh, in a national referendum voted with a massive majority for the parliamentary system of government, switching over to the presidential set up. Begum Khaleda Zia became Bangladesh's first woman head of government.

On October 9, 1991, Mr Abdul Rahman Biswas was sworn in as the titular head of State of Bangladesh, finalising the country's return to the parliamentary system. He was elected President by 172 of the total of 330 members of parliament. The Acting President, Mr Justice Shahabuddin, played an important role in Bangladesh's transition to democracy and finally to reversion to the parliamentary system.

MRS THATCHER QUILTS

* Unlike Indian politicians, leaders in the West give up positions of privilege and respond to public criticism in the interest of the party and the country. For instance, Mrs Margaret Thatcher who gave up the Prime Ministership in November, 1990, resigned her seat in the British House of Commons at the end of June, 1991. Her decision to quit the Commons and not to contest the next general election will probably benefit the Conservative Party. Her decision will be welcomed by senior Tory leaders who have been pressing her to resign to make life easier for her successor, Mr John Major.

Mrs Thatcher's vituperative attack on the European Union on the eve of the EC summit in Luxembourg created a split on the issue in Tory ranks and tied Mr Major's hands to a considerable extent.

ECONOMY CAPSULE

National Horizon

RUPEE DEPRECIATION

* During the last forty four years since Independence the Indian rupee has been depreciated twice: first in June 1966 and second on July 1 and 3, 1991. The first devaluation was a hefty one—33 per cent vis-a-vis the pound sterling; the second was relatively "mild"—20 per cent in terms of major international currencies.

The rationale for the depreciations has been vastly different. So has been their impact with one basic difference in that the last depreciation, supported with complementary liberalisation measures for industry and trade, is expected to give a big boost to exports and also attract substantial amount of foreign capital from various sources. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Aid India Consortium have extended generous aid to help India tide over the economic crisis. The immediate effect of the package of measures is that the grave danger of default in debt repayment has been averted. India is, once again, recognised as good for investment. Consequently, foreign investors are galore here. Non-resident Indians have stayed withdrawal of their deposits from India. Nay, they have increased them in the hope of higher returns on investment.

The slow-down in export growth and the acceleration in the rate of inflation (from about 10 per cent to about 15 per cent) during the past three months have caused great concern even in the official circles. Dr Manmohan Singh, Union Finance Minister and the chief architect of the economic reforms package, has, however, asserted, time and again, that the desired ends of descending prices and escalating exports will come off only after two to three years. He has

no magic wand to force the results come sooner.

NEW TRADE POLICY

* A new chapter in trade policy opened with the declaration of 13-point trade policy of a far-reaching character. The package of reforms include suspension of Cash Compensation Support (CCS), a uniform Replenishment rate of 30 per cent f.o.b. for the export-related imports; abolition of all supplementary licences, except for the small scale sector and the drug manufactures; decanalisation of inessential items; Rep. licences, re-christened as Exim scrips, to be replaced by Foreign Exchange Certificates (FECs) to facilitate free trading and promotion of services export.

The post-devaluation trade liberalisation has been hailed both inside and outside India. It will promote globalisation of Indian goods.

IMPORT CURBS

* India's vulnerability on the external trade front became critical early this year with the decline in the foreign exchange reserves to abysmally low level. Not only had the current account deficit increased very much, the aid flows, which buttressed the economy in the past, had dried up and the lurking fear of bank default was dangling over our head.

To salvage the economy from this serious predicament, the government resorted to the drastic step of rupee devaluation in July 1991 with a view to boosting exports. Earlier on, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had promulgated measures to restrain imports to reduce the outgo of foreign exchange. The imports curbs were not welcomed in the industrial and trade circles as they were likely to cripple production, push up the price curve and reduce the import-in-

tensive exports.

Interestingly, the export earnings have swelled in rupee terms by 20 per cent (Rs 14,880 crore) during the five months April-August, 1991, while the imports registered a growth rate of 10.5 per cent (Rs 17,139 crore). Computed in dollars, exports show 8 per cent and imports 15.3 per cent decline this year compared to the corresponding period last year.

NEW INDUSTRIAL POLICY

* The industrial policy 1956 that laid the foundations for the industrialisation of India has been amended several times but the policy announcement on July 24, 1991 has ushered in a new era. It envisages reforms on five fronts: (1) Industrial licensing; (2) Foreign investment; (3) Foreign technology agreements; (4) Public Sector policy; and (5) Monopoly and Restrictive Trade Practices Act.

Under the revised policy, the government will play a promotional role rather than a regulatory one as in the past. The entrepreneurs are now free to make investment decisions according to their commercial judgement and implement them as best as they can to maximise the return on investment. Barring 18 scheduled industries, all industries are exempt from the irritant licensing. Automatic approval will be provided for technology transfer and technology agreements related to high priority areas. The ceiling of forty per cent equity participation by foreign investors has been raised to 51 per cent and can be furthered upto 100 per cent in particular cases e.g. power plants. Direct foreign investment by the NRIs is permitted upto 100 per cent of the equity in 34 industries figuring in Annexure III of the new industrial policy. (Parenthetically it may be stated that some critics have warned against dependence on NRIs).

The threshold limits of assets for the MRTP companies have been removed and prior approval of the government for the establishment of new undertakings, expansion, merger, amalgamation and take-over of the existing firms will not be required.

The Public Sector which was at one time high on the agenda of the government is no longer sacrosanct. The Union Finance Minister said recently that the economically unviable Public Sector units will be closed. The translation of this statement into action has a big question mark. It would require a strong political will and may well be a dynamite to explode the entire package of economic reforms.

Thus the new industrial policy is designed to make a sea-change in the structure of the economy.

Soon after the announcement of the policy for the large and medium industries, the government came out with a policy for the small scale industrial sector. Under the new dispensation, the large and medium industries are allowed 24 per cent equity participation in the SSIs to help the latter in modernisation, technical upgradation, ancillarisation and sub-contracting. Benami transactions are banned in SSIs.

The SSIs policy lays stress on providing adequate, rather than cheap, funds, raw materials and marketing facilities through cooperative societies and other organisations.

UNION BUDGET 1991-92

* The Central government budget for the current financial year is unique in many ways. Its presentation on July 24, 1991 was delayed by 146 days for which the country had to pay a heavy price. In fact, it is one contributory cause of the economic crisis facing the country at the moment. To overcome it, the government has taken very drastic steps which have hit hard the common man, in particular.

The budget has created a new fiscal history. For the first time ever, it has brought down all the three types of deficits: fiscal deficit by 2 percent-

age points to 6.5 per cent of gross domestic product; budgetary or conventional deficit by one percentage point and the revenue deficit by about one percentage point.

This has been achieved by a two-pronged attack—by raising the revenue receipts and curtailing the public expenditure, particularly the non-plan variety.

The mechanism developed for this neither hampers the growth impulses in the economy nor impinges upon the poor, claims the Finance Minister. The post-budget price up-trends, however, do not support him.

The abolition of the fertiliser subsidy and the oil price hike have whipped up most of the budget criticism.

On the tax front, the luxury goods and the conspicuous consumption are the main targets. Excise duties have been raised. As against this, the goods which enter the common man's basket have been exempted from the levies. Had this consideration been not shown, the price situation would have been unimaginably much worse.

Increase in the allocation for the Central Plan which earmarks 50 per cent for the agricultural sector and keeping the provision of funds for the rural development and the poverty alleviation programmes at last year's level are growth-oriented policies.

FISCAL IMBALANCES

* One major cause of the current economic crisis is the persistent fiscal imbalance, that is the total public expenditure exceeding the revenue receipts.

What is worrisome, however, is that the fiscal deficit has persisted for too long. Worse, it has been burgeoning. It was estimated at 8.6 per cent of GDP in 1990-91 as against 6 per cent of GDP at the beginning of the 1980s and 4 per cent in the mid-1970s.

The upward trend has a serious adverse effect on the economy. Deficit financing undertaken to plug the gap through pump priming or public borrowing has led to increase in money supply but not in the wage goods.

Thus, too much money chasing too few goods has jacked up the general level of prices, called inflation. The economy was inflation-ridden with 12 per cent increase in the wholesale price index in 1990-91. It has since gone up. Unabated, the rise will spell disaster for the economy. A price-cost vicious circle has developed by inflation. To break it the budget deficit must be reduced which is the focus of the current year's budget. It proposes to step up revenue receipts while slashing down, at the same time, the non-plan and wasteful expenditure. The erstwhile profligacy in public spending in the decade of 1980s will be a taboo in the 1990s. The Union Finance Minister has targeted the fiscal deficit down by 2 percentage points to 6.5 per cent of the GDP in 1991-92 and further down to 4 per cent of the GDP in 1992-93. If that happens, it would be a landmark in financial management.

The government in the past has been borrowing recklessly. Cumulative debts have entailed high debt servicing charges in respect of foreign loans. With precipitate decline in foreign exchange reserves, not only has the budget deficit but also the current account deficit has aggravated the situation.

PRICE SPIRAL

* The Frankenstein of inflation is haunting India once again. It has touched not only the lean pockets of the poor majority but the bulging pockets of the middle classes also. Already the rate of inflation has climbed to the double-digit level (15.7 per cent in October) from the single digit level of around 9 per cent early this year. If the trend is not reversed, the current year may end up with 20 per cent or higher rate. Surprisingly, the price curve is moving up and away despite the three successive bumper crops so far and the expectation of the fourth one this year.

For the galloping inflation, the Union government's policies are mainly to blame. These include rupee devaluation, import curbs, hike in administered prices, heavy taxation, rise in the railway fares and freights,

dear money policy, imposition of credit controls, abolition of fertiliser subsidy and compensatory raise in the foodgrain procurement prices. The psyche of inflation has also fuelled the inflationary pressures. The Opposition in Parliament is invariably stoking the fires of inflation through rallies, protests and demonstrations.

The hope for rolling back the prices seems to be elusive at least in the near future. Nevertheless, the Congress government is nursing the pious pledge to pull down the prices to the July 1990 mark. It is incredible. The Union Finance Minister has candidly admitted this, much to the displeasure of his partymen.

CREDIT POLICY

* The RBI has deployed the instrument of credit control with the twin objective of containing inflation and restructuring the money market. At the same time, the apex bank has resorted (in July 1991) to rupee devaluation by about 20 per cent in terms of the major international currencies with a view to offsetting the current account deficits, avert the grave threat of default in international commitments and recover the economy from the phenomenally depressed state on the foreign exchange front.

The RBI has hiked twice the interest rates for lending as well as the term deposits within a short span of a couple of months. But it has yet to strike the bull's eye—inflation. In fact, the dear money policy has generated cost-push inflation in addition to the already existing demand-pull inflation. The prices have climbed to two-digit level within this period defying the policy for the reversal of the trend.

The high-cost bank credit, it is apprehended, will be a disincentive. It may even reduce production and undermine the prospects for export expansion. Loans for the non-priority areas like the consumer durables, shares and real estate as of October 1, 1991, have been "frozen". Refinance facilities have been curtailed but the cash margins for the OGL imports

have been reduced.

Critics of the anti-inflationary measures apprehend stagflation in the economy if inflation were not tamed, production not increased and exports not promoted. The RBI therapy may prove counter-productive.

FATE OF PSEs

* The public sector was destined to achieve "commanding heights" in the Nehruvian model of planned development of India's economy. Its fate is now hanging in the balance. The Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, has asserted that its role will not be diluted, however. Available evidence does not lend credence to this assertion. The Union Finance Minister has declared at Bangkok that the patently unviable public sector units will be closed down. In the same vein the Managing Director of the IMF, Mr Michel Camdessus, has said that India cannot grow at a steady rate while devoting huge resources to the continuation of loss-making enterprises. The minister has however not indicated the criteria for identifying the potentially sick enterprises. Nor has the fall-out of such an action, as and when taken, been considered.

Such questions would, perhaps, not lead to a reversal of the decision, namely "privatisation" of the public sector enterprises which have gone sick and are a constant drain on the State exchequer. Of the fifty chronically loss-making units, the public sector with low social obligations is incurring the highest losses. Their closure may affect two million workers. The Finance Minister has assured that a scheme for the rehabilitation of so displaced workers is being formulated.

The new industrial policy also envisages disinvestment upto 20 per cent of the government equity in the select public sector enterprises in order to inject in them market discipline. The public sector will be run on commercial lines but it will continue innovating and lead in strategic areas.

The twists and turns in economic

policies and perceptions are pointers to the changing status of the public sector. This is an implicit admission of the charge that the public sector is a white elephant and is inefficient crying for reform, if not complete overthrow as junk. Could it be that the proposed disinvestment scheme marks the beginning of the end of the public sector? It is no longer a "holy cow" of yesteryears.

EMPLOYMENT SCENARIO

* "More workers, less jobs" continues to be the dominant feature of India's under-developed economy, notwithstanding the huge investments made for the planned development for four decades.

This is not to say that no jobs have been created but the quantum of employment generated has been insufficient to absorb the growing number of job-seekers. The sixth five-year plan, for example, generated 356 lakh standard person years and the seventh plan set the target of 403.6 lakh standard person years. Notwithstanding the giant efforts, 200 million youths are estimated to be unemployed in 1990. Two facts stand out in the analysis of employment data for the 15-year period, 1972-87. While the rural employment has declined, the urban employment has correspondingly increased over this period. The rural India provides the bulk of employment out of the total people employed in the country. The proportionate share of rural-urban employment in 1987-88 was 4 : 1 and the agricultural sector still absorbs most of the people.

The employment trends show how strong is the pull of the glittering urban life for the ruralites. Their migration to towns and cities creates problems of housing and employment in the areas. It also means encroachment on civic amenities of life.

International Scenario

URUGUAY ROUND

* The Uruguay Round which began in September 1986 was to end in December 1990 but was extended and is now deliberating on some crucial issues which eluded agreement

among the participating governments. Will it succeed now and strike a balance between the conflicting interests?

Critics argue that the Round was too much, too late. It is too much because it has to take up many of the un-finished business of the past seven Rounds. The issues before it now include problems relating to exports of agriculture and textiles and clothing. It has also to deal with the provision of safeguards against the trade rules, anti-dumping, trade-related investment measures (TRIMs) and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPs). It is too late because the US efforts to launch a new Round since the early 1980s had been blocked until September 1986 by the European Community.

Although the attitudes of the developed and the developing countries participating in the Round have changed over the years, the outcome of the negotiations is unpredictable. It must be stated that the "Uruguay Round is not to provoke revolutions but to help evolutions to take place. What is needed is an open multilateral trading system for stability and integration rather than divisiveness, both economic and political".

Failure of the Round to achieve positive results will be a defeat for every body, asserts Mr Arthur Dunkel, Director-General of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. On the other hand, its success will reshape the world economic structures for decades to come.

AID IN FLOWS

* India's economy has never been so much aid-dependent as it is today. Aid flows from whatever quarter they may come are welcome. The total disbursement by the IMF since January 1991, came to 2579 million dollar. A stand-by credit of 2.2 billion dollar (likely to be converted into a long-term loan under the Extended Fund Facility) was sanctioned on October 31, 1991. But this conversion into a bigger loan programme will be possible only if India is able to satisfy the IMF in regard to its economic

policies to make the economy open, competitive and so on.

Aid India Consortium has pledged 6.7 billion dollar loan (\$ 2.3 billion for quick disbursement) for 1991-92. It is about 6.7 per cent more than the last year's. The inward remittances under the Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Scheme, 1991 are estimated at around forty million dollar every day. At this rate bankers expect this scheme alone to rake in at least 1.5 billion dollar by the date it is scheduled to close on November 30, 1991.

It may be stated that the government is now not in favour of short-term loans. Various other schemes have been floated by the financial institutions to net in foreign exchange reserves e.g. India Development Bond by the State Bank of India; Portfolio Investment Scheme by the RBI. The country is likely to be awash with foreign capital. Whether it will do the country a real good will depend on how best it is utilized.

GLOBAL TRENDS

* The year 1991, according to the Asian Development Bank, will witness not more than 1-2 per cent growth in the world output. But the next year (1992) would see a rebound with 2.7 per cent growth.

The developing countries, as a whole, are expected to register 3-4 per cent growth in 1991-92, thanks to the improved outlook for Latin America. The South Asian countries will average a slower growth rate of 4-5 per cent and the Newly Industrialised countries will go down to 6 per cent growth of GDP in 1991 but will post a higher growth in 1992. The South-east Asia will have the unique distinction of fastest growing region with an average growth rate of 6.5 per cent in 1991 as against 7.4 per cent in 1990. It is expected to improve to 6.9 per cent next year.

The tight money policy, high rates of interest but no marked rise in oil price will characterise the global economy.

In the case of India, the RBI has predicted less than four per cent growth of GDP in 1991 which is less

than that in the previous year. Double-digit inflation, dear money and no spectacular increase in exports will mark the economy in 1992.

INDIA AND IMF

* India has to achieve a sustainable low-inflationary growth and also restore the lost confidence of the Indian people and the international community. For this purpose there is no alternative to embark upon measures for an open competitive world economy. The role of the International Monetary Fund is to see that the policies fit well with the macro-economic framework to achieve these objectives.

The Central government has decided not to go in for short-term loans. However, in order to tide over the immediate demand for foreign exchange a stand-by loan of 2.2 billion dollar has been sanctioned by the IMF. To be eligible for conversion of this loan into a long-term bigger loan under the Extended Fund Facility, the Fund has to be satisfied that we have a 3-4 year programme for moving to an open competitive economy and have revitalised the external trade front to fit in with a medium-term programme for structural adjustment.

To make the economy more 'open' to foreign competition, it would be necessary to break the tariff barriers against imports through reduction in customs duties. For controlling inflation, it would be necessary to bring about radical tax reforms e.g. increase in excise duties, introduction of value-added tax and to reduce the budget deficit.

Liberalisation of the activities of the private sector and rehabilitation of the public sector would require the formulation of a clear exit policy and the establishment of a safety net to take care of the retrenched persons in the wake of the re-structure of the public sector. The public sector activities should be restricted to areas which cannot be taken up by the private sector.

The critical question is not the need for reform of the kind that is proposed by the IMF but the speed and phasing of a reform programme.

Round-up of Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB: Asian Development Bank

ADF: Asian Development Fund

ANURAG: Advanced Numerical Research and Analysis Group

APEC: Action Plan for Economic Cooperation

CFC: Chlorofluoro Carbon

CLASS: Computer Literacy and Studies in School

CNG: Compressed Natural Gas

CNN: Cable News Network

EFI: Extended Fund Facility

FCNR: Foreign Currency (non resident) Accounts Scheme

GRAM: Geo-Referenced Area Management

GOPIO: Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin

HDI: Human Development Index

ILY: International Literacy Year

IMET: International Military Education Training Programme

IPR: Intellectual Property Rights

ISC: Inter-State Council

LDC: Least Developed Countries

MFN: Most Favoured Nation

MIGA: Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency

MMM: The Minimum Malpractices Model

MNC: Multi-national Corporation

NISA: National Industrial Security Academy

NPT: (Nuclear) Non-Proliferation Treaty

PACER: Programme for Acceleration of Commercial Energy Research.

PEACE: Protection of Environment for Achieving Cleaner Earth

PTBT: Partial Test Ban Treaty

SIT: Special Investigating Team

SEBC: Socially and Educationally Backward Classes

SOFT: Strategic Offensive Forces Treaty

START: Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty

TRIPS: Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights

ULFA: United Liberation Front of Assam

UNTAC: UN Transitional Authority for Cambodia

VLSI: Very Large Scale Integration

VSAT: Very Small Aperture Terminals

AWARDS

NATIONAL AWARDS

Arjuna Awards, 1989

* Pargat Singh (*Hockey*) Yasin Merchant (*Snooker*), Madan Lal (*Cricket*) Mercy Kuttan (*Athletics*) Shyam Lal (*Archery*), Gopal Dewang (*Boxing*) Subrata Bhattacharya (*Football*) Niyati Shah (*Table Tennis*) Rupali Patel (*Gymnastics*) Jyotsna Dutta (*Weightlifting*), Abdul Basith (*Volleyball*) and Satywan (*Wrestling*)

The Arjuna awards consist of cash award of Rs 20,000, a bronze statue of the legendary warrior Arjuna and a scroll.

The *Dronacharya award* for the best coach has not been given to anyone.

The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Rolling Trophy, 1989-90

* Delhi University has bagged the trophy for the third time in a row for its excellent all-round performance in sports.

B.C. Roy Award, 1989

* Dr Bansi J. Wadia, obstetrician and gynaecologist has been awarded the 1989 Dr B.C. Roy award for his contribution to family planning work among the rural and tribal population.

Borlaug Award, 1987 and 1988

* The 1987 award has been given to Mr Deb Roy, conservator of forests, Assam.

The 1988 award has gone to Dr P.V. Shenoi, Special Secretary (Agriculture).

Dhanvantri Award, 1991

* Internationally renowned neurologist, Dr Eddie P. Bharucha, has been awarded the prestigious Dhanvantri award for 1991 for his outstanding contribution to the medical science, specially in the field of neurology.

G.D. Birla Award, 1990

* The second G.D. Birla International award for outstanding contribution to Humanism has been given to Sir Hermann Bondi, President of the British Humanist Association. The award has been given in recognition of his crusade against imposition of religious dogma on society.

The award carries a prize of Rs 5 lakh.

R.D. Birla Award, 1990

* Dr Darab K. Dastur has been given the R.D. Birla award for outstanding research in medical and related fields to an Indian working within the country.

The award comprises of Rs 1 lakh in cash and a citation.

Dr Dastur is Director of Department of Neuropathology and Applied Biology at the Bombay hospital. He is a world recognised authority in clinical and experimental neuropathology.

Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration, 1990

* The prestigious Indira Gandhi award for national integration for 1990 has been given *posthumously* to the former Prime Minister of India, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, for his outstanding work and supreme sacrifice in the cause of national integration.

The award, which was instituted in 1985, is given to distinguished personalities or associations working in the field of religion, arts, science, cul-

ture, social work and journalism.

Indira Gandhi Environment Award, 1988

* The 1988 Indira Gandhi Paryavaran (Environment) award has been given to Prof Sreedharan, director Sahitya Kerala Shastra Parishad for popularising environmental issues through publications.

Jamnalal Bajaj Awards, 1991

For outstanding contribution in the field of constructive work: Dwarko Sundrani, the managing trustee of the *Samantva Ashram* at Bodhgaya in Bihar.

For application of science and technology for development: Krishnamurthy Mirmira, a ceramics expert.

For outstanding contribution for uplift and welfare of women and children: Radha Bhat of Laxmi Ashram at Kasauni in district Almora of Uttar Pradesh.

International award for promoting Gandhian values: Charles C. Walker of USA.

Each award consists of a citation, a medal and a cash prize of Rs one lakh (equivalent of Rs one lakh in foreign exchange for the international award).

Jnanpith Award, 1990

* The 26th Bharatiya Jnanpith award for 1990 has been given to Prof Vinayak Krishna Gokak, the distinguished Kannada poet and literary critic, for his outstanding contribution to the enrichment of Indian literature during 1970-84.

The Jnanpith Award carries a purse of Rs two lakh with a citation and a shawl

Moortidevi Award, 1990

* The eighth Moortidevi award, 1990 has been given to Muni Shri Nagaraja for his monumental work *Agam Anr Triptak: Ek Anushilan*.

The award carries a purse of Rs 51,000. It has been sponsored by the Bharatiya Jnanpith.

Tansen Samman, 1991

* Classical vocalist, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, has been given the Tansen Samman for 1991, instituted by the Madhya Pradesh government. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a

citation.

Kabir Samman, 1991

* The Kabir Samman for excellence, outstanding creativity and dedication in the field of Indian poetry, has been given to distinguished Marathi poet Mr Govind Vinayak Karandikar.

The award has been instituted by the government of Madhya Pradesh and carries a sum of Rs 1.5 lakh and a plaque of honour.

Tulsi Samman, 1991

* The 1991 award has been given to Mr Balappa V. Hukkeri, Mr Balkrishna Das and Mr Jhaduram Devangana for their contribution in promotion and development of tribal folk arts.

The award has been instituted by the government of Madhya Pradesh.

Kalidas Award, 1991

* The prestigious Rs one lakh Kalidas Samman has been given to Bharatanatyam dancer, Dr Padma Subramaniam, for excellence in classical dance

Ustad Ali Akbar Khan has been selected for the prestigious Kalidas Samman for classical music. He is a world renowned sitar player.

The award has been constituted by the Madhya Pradesh government and carries Rs one lakh and a certificate of honour. It is given annually for excellence, outstanding creativity and dedication in the field of classical music.

Konarak Samman, 1991

* The first Konarak Samman has been conferred to Mrs Subbulakshmi, the doyen of Carnatic classical music.

The award, a national honour, has been constituted by the Orissa State Council of Culture and will be conferred annually, on all India basis, on a person for his outstanding contribution in any of the spheres of literature, art, sculpture, music, dance or socio-cultural work.

Iqbal Samman, 1991

* The distinguished Urdu writer, Mr Anand Narayan Mulla, has been given the Iqbal Samman for his excellence, outstanding creativity and long-time dedication in the field of Urdu literature.

The award has been instituted by the Madhya Pradesh government

and carries an amount of Rs one lakh and a plaque of honour.

Lata Mangeskar Award, 1990

* The 1990 Lata Mangeskar award for light music has been given to the famous duo of Hindi film music, Laxmikant-Pyarelal.

The award has been instituted by the government of Madhya Pradesh and carries an amount of Rs 1 lakh and a plaque of honour. The award is given in rotation to music composers and singers every year.

Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Award, 1988

For promoting Indian Cultural, ethical and moral values abroad: Ram Lal Sachdev.

For outstanding contribution to Agricultural Sciences: Dr V.R.P. Sinha, Director of Central Institute of Fisheries, Dr Ram Pratap Singh, Director of Extension, N.D. University of Agriculture and Technology.

For outstanding contribution to development: Dr S.Z. Qasim, who led the first Indian expedition to Antarctica; Dr Pran Pyari Bhat, a senior scientist of National Biotechnology Centre

Nehru Literacy Award, 1987

* Noted scholar, author and parliamentarian, Prof N.G. Ranga for his contribution towards removal of illiteracy among the adult men and women of India.

Republic Day Awards, 1991

Bharat Ratna: Morarji Desai, Dr B.R. Ambedkar, Rajiv Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Padma Vibhushan: Eight eminent persons have been given the second highest award. They are: Gulzari Lal Nanda, outstanding politician of yesteryears; Prof Hiren Mukherjee and Prof N.G. Ranga, both veteran freedom-fighters; Kusso Framurz Rustamji, civil services; Dr Maqbool Fida Hussain, renowned painter; Prof Raja Ram Shastri, educationist; Dr Indra Prasad Gordhanbhai Patel, economist; Dr Mangalapalli Balamuralikrishna, Carnatic Vocal musician.

Padma Bhushan: 23 eminent persons were honoured. Prominent among them were: Amjad Ali Khan (Sitar maestro), Dilip Kumar (ciné

actor), Shyam Benegal (film director), Lala Amarnath (Cricketer), Kapil Dev (Cricketer), F.S. Nariman (eminent jurist), Amala Shanka (dancer) and Dr Ebrahim Alkazi (theatre director).

Padma Shree: 83 eminent persons were honoured. Prominent among them were: Ms Bimla Dang (social worker), Ustad Ghulam Mustafa (Indian classical music—vocal), Dr Govind Narayan Malviya (surgery), Dr G. Venkataraman (nuclear physics), Dr J.P. Singh (medicine), Keshav Malik (literature, English), Dr Sneh Bhargav (medical education).

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards, 1991

Biological Sciences: *Dr Virendra Nath Pandey*, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay and *Dr Srinivas K. Sandapuri*, Karnataka University, Dharwad.

Chemical Sciences: *Dr Biman Bagchi*, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and *Dr Jhlllu Singh Yadav*, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad.

Earth, atmosphere, ocean and planetary sciences: *Dr Sri Nivas*, Kurukshetra University and *Dr Sudipta Sengupta*, Jadavpur University.

Engineering Sciences: *Dr J.B. Joshi*, University of Bombay.

Mathematical Sciences: *Dr Vikram B. Mehta* and *Dr Annamalai Ramanathan* of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay.

Medical Sciences: *Dr Shashi Wadhwa*, AIIMS, New Delhi.

Physical Sciences: *Dr Deepak Dhar* and *Dr Deepak Mathur*, TFIR, Bombay.

The awards carry Rs 50,000 in cash, a citation and a memento. These are given to scientists below 45 years of age for their outstanding research during the last five years.

CSIR Golden Jubilee awards: Dr G.N. Ramachandran, former professor, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and Dr C.N.R. Rao, Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, have been selected for the CSIR golden jubilee awards, instituted this year. The award carries Rs one lakh and a medallion.

Indian National Science Academy Awards, 1991

Chandrasekhar Venkataraman Medal: Dr Ashesh Prosad Mitra, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Medal: Professor Bimal Kumar Bachawat, FNA, Head of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Delhi.

C.V. Raman Research Professorship: Professor Govindarajan Padmanaban of Department of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

P.C. Mahalanobis Medal (1990): Professor G.S. Sanyal, Executive Director, Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park (STEP), IIT, Kharagpur.

H.J. Bhabha Medal (1990): Dr P.K. Iyengar, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, Bombay

K.R. Ramanathan Medal (1990): Professor P.R. Pisharoty, Emeritus Professor, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad

Professor Shyam Bahadur Sakseena Memorial Award: Professor H.Y. Mohan Ram, Department of Botany, University of Delhi.

Vikram Sarabhai Award, 1990

* The first Vikram Sarabhai award, instituted by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has been given to Soviet academician V.A. Kotilnikov.

The award will be presented once in two years in recognition of outstanding contributions, made by scientists in the world, to space research in developing countries. The award consists of a gold medal and a citation.

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

Nobel Prize, 1991

For Literature: South African author Nadine Gordimer for her novels and short stories focussing on the consequences of living under her country's apartheid system of racial separation.

For Peace: Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi for her non-violent struggle to bring democracy to her country.

For Medicine: Erwin Neher and

Bert Sakmann of Germany share the prize for their discoveries concerning the function of single ion channels in cell.

For Physics: Pierre-Gilles de Gennes of France for work which has led to lap-top computer screens and digital watch displays.

For Chemistry: Richard R. Ernst of Switzerland for his contributions to the development of the methodology of high-resolution Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy.

For Economics: British-born Prof Ronald Coase of the University of Chicago, USA for his theories which helped explain why companies exist, and also why communist economies collapsed.

Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding, 1989

* The President of Zimbabwe, Dr Robert G. Mugabe, has been given the 1989 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding in recognition of his fight for justice, peace and freedom in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

The award carries a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize, 1990

* The Indira Gandhi Prize for peace, disarmament and development for 1990 has been awarded to the President of Namibia, Mr Sam Nujoma.

The award has been given to Mr Nujoma in recognition of his "courageous and inspiring leadership of the people of Namibia in their struggle for freedom and equality".

The award carries Rs 15 lakh in cash.

Magsaysay Awards, 1991

For community leadership: Shi Cheng-Yen, a Buddhist nun and the head of Taiwan's most trusted charity for "reawakening Taiwan's modern people to the ancient Buddhist teachings of compassion and charity".

For journalism, literature and creative communication arts: Indian dramatist K.V. Subbanna. He was recognised for "enriching rural Karnataka's cultural life with the world's best films and the delights and wonder of the living stage".

For public service: Crown Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of In-

donesia.

For government service. Alferdo Bengzon, health secretary of Philippines.

Asia's nobel equivalent, the award carries a certificate, a gold medal and a cash prize of \$30,000. It is named after the Philippine President, Mr Ramon Magsaysay who died in a plane crash in 1957.

Booker Prize, 1991

* Britain's prestigious Booker Prize for fiction has been awarded to *The Famished Road* by the Nigerian poet and novelist, Mr Ben Okri.

Kalinga Prize, 1991

* The 1991 Kalinga Prize has been shared by Dr N.K. Sehgal of the Department of Science and Technology and Dr R. Iftimovici of Romania. The award is given by UNESCO for exceptional contributions to science and technology.

UNESCO prize for education, 1991

* Mrs Ruta Leger Sivard of the USA and the Conrs Sainte-Marie de Hann School in Senegal have been awarded the 1991 UNESCO's peace prize for education.

Mrs Sivard is distinguished for her battle for disarmament. The Conrs Sainte-Marie de Hann was founded in 1949 as a private Catholic institute. It became secular in 1973.

Given annually, the \$60,000 prize comes from a million dollar fund donated by the Japan Ship-building Foundation to promote all actions leading to the establishment of "the defence of peace in the spirit of mankind".

UNESCO's International Literacy Prize, 1991

* UNESCO has awarded the International Literacy Prize for 1991 to the West Bengal Government in recognition of the significant initiative taken to launch the mass campaign for total literacy and in particular the achievements made in Burdwan and Midnapore districts.

Entitled NDMA the prize is one of the five instituted by UNESCO under the International Literacy Award. It carries a cash prize of \$10,000.

In 1990 UNESCO's King Sejong Literacy award of \$30,000 was given

to Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad.

UN Global award for environment

* Indian agronomist Julian Gonsalves, working with Industrial Institute of Global Reconstruction, Cavite, Philippines, has won the UN Global award for outstanding environmental achievement. The award is in recognition of Dr Gonsalves's achievement in developing educational training programme for promotion of environmentally suitable methods of food production in developing countries.

Soviet Land Nehru Award, 1990

* Mother Teresa has been nominated for the 1990 Soviet Land Nehru award.

The award carries Rs one lakh cash prize and invitation to visit the Soviet Union for a fortnight.

FILM AWARDS

Dada Saheb Phalke Award, 1990

* Telugu cinema's doyen, Akkineni Nageshwara Rao, has been honoured with the Dada Saheb Phalke award, 1990, for outstanding contribution to the film industry.

The award carries a cash prize of Rs one lakh, a trophy, a shawl and a citation.

38th National Film Festival Awards

Best Feature Film (*Svarnam Kanai*): *Maru Pakkam* (Tamil) directed by K.S. Sethumadhavan. The film is a psychological case study of an old man approaching the throes of death.

Best Direction: Tapan Sinha for his Hindi film, *Ek Doctor Ki Mant*.

Best actor: Amitabh Bachchan for his role in Hindi film *Agneepath*.

Best Actress: Vijaya Shanthi, Telugu film actress, for her role in *Karthavyam*.

Best supporting actor: Nedumudi Venu for his performance in the Malayalam film *His Highness Abdullah*.

Best supporting actress: K.P.A.C. Lalitha for her performance in the Malayalam film *Anaram*.

Best child artist: Shared by three child artistes, Baby Shruti, Master Tarun and Baby Shamili for their performance in the Tamil film *Aijali*.

Indira Gandhi Award for best film of a director. Malayalam film *Perumathachan* directed by Ajayan.

Best popular film providing wholesome entertainment: *Chayal* produced by Dharmendra.

Best playback singer: Male: M.G. Sreekumar for the Malayalam film *His Highness Abdullah*.

Female: Lata Mangeshkar for the Hindi film *Lekin*.

Best Music director: Hridayanath Mangeshkar for the Hindi film *Lekin*.

Best Lyrics: Gulzar for the Hindi film *Lekin*.

Special jury award: Sunny Deol for his role in *Chayal* and Tamil film actress Java Bharathy for her performance in *Maru Pakkam*.

Regional films: *Atmapu* (Bengali), *Joop* (Assamese), *Dhrishthi* (Hindi), *Muthina Hara* (Kannada), *Vasthulata* (Malayalam), *Aijali* (Tamil), *Mathi Mannululu* (Telugu).

Best feature film in languages other than those specified in eighth schedule of the Constitution: *Ishamon*, Manipuri.

Best film critic: Shoma Chatterjee.

BOOKS

August Coup, The

* This is a 74-page memoir, written by Mikhail S. Gorbachov, President of USSR. In this book he pledges abiding allegiance to "the socialist idea" and tries to explain the tactical blunders that led to the coup against him. It also includes a long article he had been writing at his summer home in Crimea in the days before the military takeover.

It is interesting to note that Mr Gorbachov, who had earlier described himself as a "Convinced Communist", characterises himself in this book as a democrat and a socialist.

Conservationist, The

* Written by Nobel Prize winner Ms Nadine Gordimer, it explores in depth the effect of life in a colour-bar society on individuals who are fundamentally decent and humane.

Ms Gordimer had won the 1974 Booker Prize for this novel.

Famished Road, The

* This novel has won the Nigerian poet and novelist, Mr Ben Okri, the 1991 Booker Prize. It is about an exploration of the real world by a spirit child—Abikui. He is endowed with special powers and he explores modern Nigeria giving the author an opportunity to juxtapose the real and magical worlds.

Final Exit

* Written by Derek Humphry, this book is a guide for terminally ill people on how to commit suicide. It outlines a variety of ways to commit suicide and provides specific instructions.

Controversy has swirled around publication of this book because many experts fear it will be misused by people who are depressed or who might plan to commit murder. Others behave that it is a loud protest against the medical profession for allowing terminally ill patients to suffer.

Gurusagaram

* Well-known Malavalam novelist and cartoonist Mr O.P. Vijayan has won the prestigious Vayalar Rama Varma literary award for his novel *Gurusagaram*.

A novel of philosophic dimensions, it attempts to explore the riddles of rootless humanity oscillating between the individual psyche and collective consciousness.

Higher than Hope

* This is a biography of Nelson Mandela. It has been authored by Fatima Meer, a professor of sociology. It focusses on the hitherto unknown aspects of the African leader's life and his struggles.

Kashmir—Behind the Vale

* Written by Mr M.J. Akbar, the book highlights the "failures" of Mr Jinnah, the father of Pakistan, in wooing the Kashmiri Muslims to his side and utterly disregarding their free will and democratic urge during the turmoil of early 1940s in the Valley.

It exposes the role of so-called raiders led by Pakistani army in the Valley in late 1940 and also quotes at length how Pakistan's efforts to woo Sheikh Abdullah failed.

The book has been banned in

Pakistan.

Occasion for Loving

* This novel is based on a triangular relationship—an older woman encouraging a love affair between her two friends, a black man and a white woman. It is written by Ms Nadine Gordimer, winner of 1991 Literature Nobel Prize. This novel was held "under embargo" for a while and was ultimately banned by the South African government.

The Fires of Bengal

* Authored by the young Indian author, Amitav Ghosh, the 400-page novel is a thousand and one nights tale spilling over with extra-ordinary characters. Mr Ghosh has been awarded France's Medici prize for this book.

DAYS

Sadbhavana Diwas

* August 20, the birthday of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, late Prime Minister of India, was observed as *Sadbhavana Diwas*. The objective of this was to promote harmony among people of all religions, languages and States; to encourage goodwill towards everyone and to eschew violence.

World Diabetes Day

* Diabetes mellitus is today the third major killer of human beings. In India alone, there are over 15 million persons suffering from the disease and an equal number who are not even aware of it. Its growing incidence in developing countries is posing a big challenge to health authorities.

Seeing the challenge posed by the disease, the World Health Organisation has declared June 27 as World Diabetes Day. The aim is to create greater awareness amongst patients, their family and health authorities.

Earth Day on April 22

* April 22 has been declared Earth Day 1990. The day heralded the millennium-end decade of environmental activism in what is envisaged as the largest global demonstration in history. More than 100 million people, world over, took part to celebrate the Earth Day and help spread the message that the environment should be protected.

No Tobacco Day

* World Health Organisation celebrated May 31 as No Tobacco Day all over the world. The basic aim was to create awareness among the general population and policy makers to achieve the goal of tobacco free society.

DEFENCE

'Prithvi' again test-launched successfully

* India successfully test-launched for the fourth time, *Prithvi*, the fully indigenously designed and constructed surface-to-surface missile, from the Sriharikota range on July 4, 1991.

Prithvi has been developed by the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Centre's integrated guided missile programme.

The successful test flight of *Prithvi* for the fourth time gives a boost to the eight-year-old Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). The first test flight of this tactical battlefield missile with a range of 150 to 250 km was conducted successfully on February 25, 1988 and the second on September 27, 1989. The third flight was carried out on February 11, 1991.

The missile is designed to perform a tactical battlefield support role and will function as a high-accuracy system to destroy various types of military targets. It can also be launched from a mobile launcher on an eight-wheeled truck. It is expected to be offered for user trials by mid-nineties.

The single stage missile has a two-chamber rocket motor with storable liquid propellants. While a modified surveillance radar is used to intercept one target at a time, a modified flycatcher radar is used for guiding the missile.

Prithvi can have different types of warheads against the heterogeneous targets. The ratio of warhead to overall take-off weight is the highest for any missiles in its class.

The integrated guided missile development programme was sanctioned in July 1983 with the mandate for design, development and leading to productionisation of four missile

systems, including *Prithvi*

'Trishul' in triple role successful

* In an important development, Indian defence scientists successfully tested *Trishul*—short range surface-to-air missile (SAM)—in its triple battlefield roles for the Army, Air Force and Navy

The latest series of test flights between August 24 and September 10 1991 off Chandipur test range in Orissa have demonstrated *Trishul's* capability as a deadly weapon against aircraft and as a ship-launched anti-aircraft missile

The missile successfully performed a manoeuvre height lock loop which pushed its reach by 7-metre over the sea surface at speeds exceeding Mach Two. This manoeuvre has been specially designed for the sea skimming *Trishul* for the Navy. The height lock loop uses an on board radio altimeter which beams continuous stream of pulses towards the sea surface to determine the missile height and maintain a constant programmed altitude above the water

Trishul along with *Prithvi*, another SAM, would undergo extensive user trials during 1992 before being manufactured by the Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and inducted into the Indian Defence services

The test flights off Chandipur also proved a new 'guiding system' which accurately guides the missile towards its target with the help of microwave based radar

Trishul is a short range quick reaction SAM designed and developed as part of the country's Integrated Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) started in 1982

Trishul, as the name indicates, has a triple role for the three wings of the Indian Defence. For the Air Force, the launcher and radar are on separate wheeled platforms to facilitate targeting moving helicopters or aircraft. In the Naval form, *Trishul* is designed to take on not only aircraft but also sea skimming anti-ship missiles

'Nag' successfully tested

* India's first indigenous, third generation anti-tank missile, *Nag*, was successfully flight tested on

November 29, 1990 at the interim test range at Chandipur in Orissa

Nag has been described as more than matching any comparable missile in the armoury of NATO or the Warsaw pact

The third generation anti-tank missile system has a 'fire and forget and top attack capability'. It can be launched from land based missile carriers as well as helicopters. It has a range of four kilometres. The target acquisition system includes thermal sight operator carbon dioxide ranger finder with range accuracy and day sight and other vision aids for the crew. It is designed to pierce all futuristic armour, including reactive armour

Akash test-launch successful

* India's most modern multi-target surface to-air missile *Akash* was successfully test-launched on August 14, 1990 from the interim test range at Chandipur on sea on the northern coast of Orissa

Akash is the fifth missile to be designed in India. The other four are *Prithvi*, *Trishul*, *Agni* and *Nag*. While *Prithvi* is a short range surface to surface missile, *Trishul* is a multi role, quick reaction, short range, surface-to-air missile and *Agni* is an intermediate range surface to surface missile

INS Dega Commissioned

* *INS Dega*, the first Naval air station in the East Coast, was commissioned on October 21, 1991

This naval air station has infrastructural facilities for night landing and further expansion of the runway is possible when required

This naval air station is the fourth in the country. The commissioning of the air station, with all modern facilities, is a milestone in the history of the naval air arm

Offshore patrol vessel launched

* *INS Sujata*, last in the series of four offshore patrol vessels built by the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, was launched on October 22, 1991

The *INS Saryu*, second in the series, was commissioned two weeks before and the third vessel, *INS Sharda*, will be ready for commissioning

soon

INS Khanjar commissioned

* *INS Khanjar*, the fourth indigenously designed missile corvette, was commissioned at the Naval base in Visakhapatnam on October 22, 1991

The ship is fitted with surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, aircraft guns and sophisticated machinery

INS Kirpan commissioned

* *INS Kirpan*, the first frontline warship designed indigenously by the Garden Reach Ship building and Engineers Limited (GRSEL), was commissioned on January 12, 1991

The 1300-tonne ship is equipped with surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles. It has the capability of carrying and operating the AlH helicopter or any other similar helicopter in anti ship or anti-submarine role. The virtually shallow water capability gives the ship immunities from submarine threats

INS Kirpan is the third corvette class warship. The first two ships of this class were commissioned in 1989 and 1990. The indigenous component in the making of this ship was about 70 per cent

INS Delhi—India's largest warship

* India's largest and most sophisticated, indigenously-built warship, *INS Delhi* was launched on February 2, 1991 at the Mazagaon Docks

Costing Rs 200 crore, the ship is the first of a batch of three to built for the Navy. It will be commissioned and handed over to the Navy by early 1995 and will be the first large ship to be propelled by gas turbines, instead of the conventional steam ones

The ship is being built under "Project-15", which has drawn national and international attention. The ships built as part of this project will have the most advanced weapon systems, high speed, long endurance and survivability in adversity

The displacement of *INS Delhi* is in excess of 6,000 tonnes, making it twice as large as the Godavari class of frigates

INS Kattabomman commissioned

* The Rs 122 crore Very Low Frequency (VLF) station of Indian Navy,

the first of its kind in Asia, INS Katambomman, was commissioned by President R. Venkataraman on October 21, 1990.

The VLF station is a highly sophisticated communication network. It is possessed by only two or three other countries of the world. It will help in communicating with submarines operating under water at long ranges.

INS Gharial launched

* INS *Gharial*, a leading ship tank, built for the Indian Navy jointly by the Hindustan Shipyard and Garden Reach Shipbuilders was launched on April 1, 1991

The ship can carry a helicopter and has a capacity to transport a large number of troops, material, tanks and other stores. It will add to the amphibians warfare capability of Navy. Besides, it is better equipped with modern sensors and radars than its predecessor INS *Magar*

Second missile boat launched

* In a landmark event of warship building activity in the Mazagaon Dock Limited (MDL), the second missile boat of Tarantula class was launched on Jan 3, 1991, adding to the firepower of the Indian Navy.

The ship has been named *Vipul*.

In 1990 MDL launched the first missile boat of this series of Soviet design. Between the first and second launch of missile boats MDL had also delivered the second corvette class vessel in May 1990.

INS Vibhuti launched

* The first indigenously-built missile boat, INS *Vibhuti*, was handed over to Indian Navy by the Mazagaon Docks on June 3, 1991.

The sophisticated 450-tonne boat is the sixth in a series of 12 boats that will be built in the next few years. Five such boats were built by the USSR on order from the Navy. INS *Vibhuti* has also been built with Soviet technology.

Marine acoustic research ship launched

* Mars, a 84.93-metre long marine acoustic research ship of the Naval Physical Oceanographic Laboratory, was launched on May 14, 1991.

The ship has been built by the

Garden Reach Ship Builders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) at a cost of Rs 65 crore. It is the first indigenously-built, multi-purpose research vehicle for carrying out geophysical, meteorological, acoustic and non-acoustic research for collection of ocean data for strategic military interest.

The ship has fully air-conditioned eight laboratories having state-of-art scientific equipment and facilities for the landing of a helicopter.

EXPEDITIONS

10th Antarctica Expedition

* The 10th Indian expedition to Antarctica returned to the country on March 25, 1991 after accomplishing among other things, geological mapping of the area around Greater Maitri region and establishment of geodetic control points

Twenty-five of the 100-member group have stayed back for carrying out various scientific studies during Antarctic winter. The returning party included 22 members of the 7th wintering team.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Purnima-III gets critical

* Purnima-III, a new research reactor which uses Uranium U233 as fuel, attained criticality on November 9, 1990 at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Bombay.

The zero-energy reactor, first of its kind in the world, uses fuel prepared from the naturally occurring thorium U233 fuel. It was fabricated by the radio metallurgy division of BARC.

Narora's second unit goes 'critical'

* The Second 220 megawatt (MW) unit of the Narora Atomic Power Project was successfully tested for production as it attained "criticality" on October 24, 1991. It is the eighth nuclear reactor in the country to reach this important milestone. The reactor is likely to begin commercial production in a month.

The Narora plant is the fore runner of a whole new generation of reactors of the next decade. The indigenously designed and built reactor incorporates state-of-the art safety

mechanisms. The commissioning of the reactor was delayed by over three years to improve the design to withstand strong earthquakes. The plant is situated in a Seismic Zone. The reactors are designed to withstand a quake of the magnitude of 6.7 on the Richter scale.

The first 220 MW reactor at Narora attained criticality on March 12, 1989 and it began commercial production when it was synchronised to the northern grid on July 29, 1989. The power plant was dedicated to the nation on October 15, 1989 by the then Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

PERSONS

Anand, Viswanathan

* The 20-year-old Indian grandmaster, Viswanathan Anand, has become the first Indian and only the second Asian to qualify for the candidate matches leading to the World Chess Championship.

Coase, Prof Ronald

* British-born Prof Ronald Coase of the University of Chicago has won the 1991 Nobel economics prize for his "breakthrough in understanding the institutional structure of the economy".

Born in Britain in 1910 and a long time US resident, he is credited for bringing to economic theory concepts of property rights and "transaction costs"—the costs of buyers and sellers meeting and defining their relationships through contracts.

Cresson, Mrs Edith

* Mrs Edith Cresson is the first woman Prime Minister of France. Dynamic, aggressive, intelligent, determined, ambitious—are some of the terms most frequently used to describe her.

She was born to highly educated parents in 1934. After taking a doctorate in law and a degree in agro-economics, she plunged into public life. At forty she was named one of the socialist party secretaries and has been one of the most faithful of Mr Mitterrand's inner circle since 1965.

Ernst, Richard R.

* He was in the news for being selected for the 1991 Nobel Prize for chemistry. 58-year-old Mr Ernst was

honoured for his contributions to the development of the methodology of high resolution Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy

Gandhi, Rajiv

* One of the youngest to be elected head of the State worldwide, Mr Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on May 21 1991 in a bomb blast just before he was to address a election rally at Sriperumbudur near Madras

A former pilot in the Indian Air lines Mr Gandhi was a late and reluctant political entrant He was forced to join politics by Mrs Indira Gandhi after the death of Mr Sanjay Gandhi He became the seventh Prime Minister of India hours after the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi on October 31 1984

Born on August 20, 1944 Mr Gandhi was the eldest son of Mrs Indira Gandhi and Mr Ieraz Gandhi His grandfather Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was India's first premier

He has been honoured *posthumously* with Bharat Ratna and Indira Gandhi award for National Integration, 1990

Gennes, Pierre-Gilles de

* He is the winner of the 1991 Nobel Prize for physics for work which has led to lap top computer screens and digital watch displays

Mr de Gennes was born in 1932 in Paris He has been professor at the College de France since 1971 and director of the Ecole de Physique et Chimie in Paris since 1976

He has been described by some scientists as 'the Isaac Newton of our time'

Goenka, Ramnath

* Ramnath Goenka a colossus who straddled the Indian journalistic and political scene for five decades, died on October 5, 1991

He was born in Darbhanga in north Bihar on April 18 1904 After completing his studies at the Kashi Vidvapeeth, he joined his uncle's business in Calcutta and later shifted to Madras It was from here that he later on managed his Indian Express newspaper chain

He identified himself closely with the freedom movement Mahatma Gandhi appointed him a life trustee

of the *Hind Prachin Sabha* in 1924 Like the Mahatma he was always simple in his food habits and always wore *khadi*

He was a member of the AICC till the split in the Congress Party in 1969 and broke away from Mrs Indira Gandhi when she clamped emergency in 1975

Gokak, Prof V.K.

* Prof Vinayak Krishna Gokak the distinguished Kannada poet and literary critic, has won the 1990 Bharatiba Jnanpith Award

He was born in 1909 He appeared on the Kannada literary scene with his lyrical work *Kalpasaka* in 1934 This was followed by the novel *Iyodu* His collection of poetry *Naraya Kavetazalu* (1957) heralded an age of new poetry in Kannada *Dyava Prithvi* won him the Sahitya Akademi award in 1957 Between 1970 and 1984 he worked on *Bharata Sindhu Rashmi* a work of epic dimensions in 3500 lines of blank verse

Gordimer, Nadine

* Ms Nadine Gordimer is the recipient of 1991 Nobel prize for literature She belongs to South Africa

The 68 year old writer is most celebrated political author of South Africa Her literary works give profound insights into the extremely complicated social relationships in South African environment

Her novels, many of which were banned by the white minority government of South Africa, include *A World of Strangers* (1958), *The Late Bourgeois World* (1966) and *Burger's Daughter* (1979)

Greene, Graham

* Graham Greene, the story-teller whose life and novels seemed to blur the distinction between fiction and reality, died on April 3, 1991

Through works like "Brighton Rock", "The Third Man" and "The Power and the Glory", he won millions of readers with world-weary but compassionate comments on the underdog

Kasparov, Garry

* World Chess Champion, Garry Kasparov, retained his title for

another three years with a 43-move draw in the 22nd game of his match with Soviet compatriot, Anatoly Karpov on December 27, 1990

When Kasparov toppled Karpov in 1985, he became the youngest champion in the history of the game

Kasparov was born Garik Weinshtein on April 13, 1963 in Baku

A child prodigy, he was at the age of 10 a candidate master of sports, one of the highest Soviet sporting honours He became a chess grandmaster by the age of 17

Koirala, Girija Prasad

* A firebrand trade unionist, Girija Babu or GP as he is popularly called, is the new Prime Minister of Nepal

He was born in Tedi in Saharsa district in Bihar in India where his father was in exile He left his studies without completing higher education and plunged into politics at an early age He was the founder member of the Nepal Trade Union Congress and spearheaded the resistance against the Rana autocracy in Nepal He played a key role in 1950-51 revolution that overthrew the Rana regime

The royal coup of 1960 saw the end of the democracy and Mr Koirala was imprisoned He remained in jail for 13 years

Kyi, Aung San Suu

* The 1991 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to the Burmese opposition leader Ms Aung San Suu Kyi Three short years ago, a housewife in Oxford, England, Ms Aung San Suu Kyi was thrust into the leadership Myanmar's opposition and to world prominence by a combination of heredity and timing

She has been under house arrest for last two years in Yangon

She is the daughter of Gen Aung San, the hero of Myanmar's independence from Britain and the founder of the Burmese Army

Mirmira, Krishnamurthy

* He has been in the news for receiving the 1991 Jamnalal Bajaj award for the application of science and technology for development For many years, 64-year-old, Mr Krishnamurthy, has been working among the potters in Bhadrawati in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra

He is a ceramics expert and has worked extensively for raising the standard of the rural artisans by arranging for loans, providing training and organising them to work in a cooperative.

Nagaraja, Muni Shri

* He has been awarded the 1990 Moortidevi award. He is a renowned scholar of Hindi, Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit.

75-year-old Mr Nagaraja has won the award for his monumental work *Agam Aur Triptak: Ek Anushilan*. The book covers a wide canvas of ancient Indian philosophy, culture and history. The first volume provides critical and analytical biographies of Buddha and Mahavira along with their contemporary personages. The second part is a comparative linguistic and literary study of all the different Prakrits *vis-a-vis* Vedic and classical Sanskrit, Latin and Hebrew.

Neher, Erwin

* Mr Erwin Neher of Germany is a cell physiologist. He shared the 1991 Nobel Prize for medicine. The award was given to him for discoveries concerning the function of single ion channels in cell.

He works at the Max-Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Goettingen, Germany.

Nujoma, Sam Daniel

* The Namibian President, Mr Sam Nujoma, belongs to the proud breed of freedom fighters-turned-statesmen in the erstwhile colonies of the Third World. He was in the news recently for being awarded the 1990 Indira Peace Prize.

A former railway and municipal clerk, with just a secondary school certificate, he has come a long way, first carrying the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) and later the leadership of the independent Namibia on his shoulders.

Pandit, Mrs Vijay Lakshmi

* Mrs Vijay Lakshmi Pandit, a stormy petrel of the Indian freedom struggle who played a pivotal role in the political scenario of India, for over six decades, died on December 1, 1990 at the age of 90.

She was born in 1900 to the

veteran Congress leader Motilal Nehru. She had a chequered career—a freedom fighter, an ace diplomat, a politician par excellence, a successful governor and an ardent social worker.

Patel, Sardar Vallabhbhai

* A great and vigorous Congress leader and former Deputy Prime Minister of India he has been honoured by *Bharat Ratna*, the highest civilian award of India, *post-humously*.

Well known as the iron man of India, he is the only individual in Indian history who by persuasion rather than use of force brought about the merger of 600 princely States in the territory administered by the Centre.

Pathak, Justice R.S.

* Mr Justice R.S. Pathak, Chief Justice of India, is the third Indian to be elected to the International Court of Justice which is the principal judicial organ of the UN.

He was born on November 26, 1924. He started his career in 1948 as an advocate in the Allahabad High Court. He became a judge of the Supreme Court on February 20, 1978.

Patil, Shivravi

* Shivravi Patil has been elected as the Speaker of the 10th Lok Sabha. In him the Lok Sabha has a presiding officer who speaks the least, and when he does, always to the point. Soft-spoken, Mr Patil has earned the respect of fellow members for his complete impartiality as Deputy Speaker of the 9th Lok Sabha.

He was born on October 12, 1935 at Chakur in Latur district of Maharashtra. He belongs to a family of agriculturists. Educated at Osmania and Bombay Universities, he obtained degrees in B.Sc as well as LL.B and LL.M and is a qualified lawyer.

He was first elected to the Lok Sabha in 1980 from Latur in Maharashtra and was returned to the House in the subsequent three elections.

Ramdas, Admiral Laxminarain

* He is the new Chief of Naval Staff. A specialist in communications, he has held a wide range of operational

and staff appointments that eminently qualify him for the new position.

He was awarded the Vir Chakra for distinguished action by the frigate, *Beas*, under his command in the Bay of Bengal during the 1971 Indo-Pak conflict. He was one of the first batch of officers to pass out of the National Defence College.

Rao, A. Nageswara

* Akkineni Nageswara Rao, the doyen of Telugu Cinema, is the winner of the 1990 Dada Saheb Phalke Award. He is the only one to win the award while still playing a hero. Raj Kapoor and Ashok Kumar, both recent winners, had not played hero since 1970.

The thespian made his debut with a bit role in *Dharampatni*. Before entering films he had played the female lead on stage. Four decades have passed since he became a hero but he still represents the wispy figure young girls pine for in their dreams.

Rao, P.V. Narasimha

* A veteran statesman, Mr Pamulapati Venkata Narasimha Rao becomes the ninth Prime Minister of India and the first from South India.

Popularly known as 'PV', the 71-year-old Mr Rao is the seniormost member of the Congress Working Committee who brings to his new position a wealth of experience as a scholar, lawyer, journalist, linguist and a successful administrator.

Rodrigues, Gen S.F.

* Gen S.F. Rodrigues, former GOC-in-C, Western Command, is the new Chief of the Army Staff. He succeeded Gen V.N. Sharma.

Gen Rodrigues was born on September 19, 1933. He was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery in December, 1952.

He was awarded the Vishisht Seva medal for distinguished service in 1972 and won the PVSM in 1988.

Sakmann, Bert

* He is the winner of the 1991 Nobel Prize for medicine for his discoveries concerning the function of single ion channels in cell. He shared the prize with Mr Erwin Neher.

Mr Sakmann, 49, works at the Max Planck Institute for Medicine

Research in Heidelberg, Germany.
Seshan, T.N.

* He has been appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner of India. Born in 1932, he belongs to the 1955 batch of IAS officers and was attached to the Tamil Nadu Cadre. During his career he has held important positions, including that of Cabinet Secretary, Defence Secretary and Environment Secretary.

Sharif, Mohammad Nawaz

* Mr Nawaz Sharif has been elected as the 11th Prime Minister of Pakistan. He is the leader of the Islamic Democratic Alliance.

He is a powerful industrialist whose political life dates from the rule of the late dictator Zia-ul-Haq.

A lawyer by training, he entered politics in 1981 when he was appointed finance minister in the Punjab provincial government, while Pakistan was under martial law. He has been described as dynamic and shrewd.

Mr Sharif and his family own the Ittefaq conglomerate, one of the largest in Pakistan, with interests in metal, sugar and textiles.

Sundrani, Dwarko

* Mr Dwarko Sundrani, the managing trustee of the *Samanvaya Ashram* at Bodhgaya in Bihar is the recipient of 1991 Jamnalal Bajaj award for outstanding contribution in the field of constructive work.

Soon after the partition he went to *Sewagram Ashram* and later joined Acharya Vinoba Bhave's *Bhoodan* movement.

Suri, Air Chief Marshal N.C.

* One of the most highly decorated officers of Indian Air Force, Air Chief Marshal N.C. Suri is the new Chief of Air Staff.

A recipient of Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Vayu Sena Medal and ADC, Air Chief Marshal Suri is a prodigy of the first course of the joint services wing and was commissioned into the Indian Air Force as a fighter pilot in March 1952. He has held important operational and staff appointments.

He commanded premier fighter squadrons and operational wings before being appointed director of air

defence and later director of air intelligence at air headquarters.

Walker, Charles C.

* Mr Charles C. Walker of USA has been selected for the international award for promoting Gandhian values outside India. An exponent of Gandhian ideas and teachings in the USA and other parts of the world, Mr Walker has led many non-violent struggles including one at Culebra project in Puerto Rico which resulted in the US Navy stopping the use of island for naval training.

PLACES

Kuwait

* Kuwait was in the news when Iraq invaded and captured the tiny country, on August 2, 1990, in a well-executed military action.

Iraq had been demanding from Kuwait to write-off the (Gulf War) debts and to relinquish some of its oil rich territory. In fact the most important dispute was over the border which has been undemarcated since Kuwait won independence in 1961. The talk to solve the dispute failed on August 1 and Iraq invaded its tiny neighbour on August 2. Although Iraq had recognised Kuwait as an independent country in 1963 it has always regarded the present day Kuwait as the product of a British protectorate which dates from 1899.

For the past 200 years Kuwait has been ruled by the al-Sabah dynasty. After the massacre of the Iraqi royal family in 1958, the new ruler of Baghdad, Abdul Karim Qasim, responded to emerging of an independent Kuwait in 1961 by threatening a new invasion of Kuwait. The support of Britain, Iran and the Arab League defused the crisis.

In the 19th century Kuwait emerged as a staging post for goods moving between the Indian Ocean and Europe. This led to increased inter-action with Ottoman Sultans. Grants of Ottoman titles, decorations, land and tax privileges enhanced the wealth of al-Sabah. Gradually Kuwait came to be referred as a part of Ottoman Iraq.

Kuwait is a small Arab State, with an area of 17,656 sq km, on the north western coast of the Persian Gulf between Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

With per capita income of \$ 13,890 it is one of the richest countries of the world. It is the world's fourth largest producer of petroleum.

PROJECTS

Biosphere II

* Eight scientists—four men and four women—financed mainly by Texas, USA, multimillionaire Ed Bass, plan to live in a biosphere in the Southern American desert for two years from October 2, 1991 to show that astronauts can live in self-contained ecosystems on the moon or mars or in deep space. The project has been named *Biosphere II*. Earth is known as *Biosphere I*.

The scientists locked themselves inside a huge glass building that is a world unto itself with its own "ocean", "rain forest", "farmland" and "atmosphere". They are totally independent of the outside world. They will breathe recycled air, grow recycled food, drink recycled water and eat crops fertilised with their own recycled waste.

The experiment is expected to cost about 150 million dollars.

Robert Macelroy of NASA's Ames Research Centre in Mountain View, California, said he is confident the biosphere's plants will generate enough oxygen to make it habitable for full two years.

Food needed by the eight scientists will be grown on an eighth of an acre. Critics say that is too small but the scientists are confident that it is enough. Opinion is, however, divided on the feasibility of the project.

Param—the Indian super-computer

* India's first indigenous super-computer, the Param, which took three years and Rs 300 million to design and build, is ready for launch and will be unveiled to the world in September, 1991.

The formidable machine, with peak computing power exceeding 1000 MFLOPS (Mega Floating Point Operation Per Second), has been dedicated to the nation by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) Pune, its creator.

With the launch of the Param,

India will rub shoulders with a select group of nations with the capability, not only to design and develop a supercomputer but also successfully commercialise them. The Param not only compares with the best of its kind in the world but also displays a competitive price tag.

The Param can be compared with the best parallel supercomputers in the world—namely NCUBE-2 and CM-2 of the USA and the European computers MEIKO and TELEMAT.

Koel Karo hydroelectric project cleared

* The government has cleared the Koel Karo hydroelectric project in Bihar which has been hanging fire for nearly a decade.

The project in the central sector was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). It will be implemented by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) at a cost of Rs 1338.80 crore.

The project, expected to be completed in eight years, has a capacity of 710 MW. It will have four units of 172.5 MW capacity each totalling 690 MW. It will also have an additional power house containing a single unit of 20 MW.

The project envisages the construction of an earthen dam—44 metres in height and 1965 metres long—across the river south Koel at Basia along with a 33.78 km long trans-basin channel and a 55 metre high and 2456 metre long earthen dam across the north Karo river at Lohajimi.

There will also be an underground power house at Lumpungkhel to accommodate four units of 172.5 MW each.

Dhauliganga hydro-electric project approved

* The Economic Affairs Committee of the Union Cabinet has cleared the Rs 600-crore, 280 MW, Dhauliganga hydroelectric project in Uttar Pradesh. The entire project will be executed with indigenous resources without any foreign tie-up.

The project is located on Dhauliganga river, which is a tributary of Kali river. It envisages construction of a 56-metre high rock fill dam, a 5.8 km long headrace tun-

nel and an underground power house to install four generating units of 70 MW each. The project has been conceived as a run of the river scheme and is expected to afford an annual energy generation of 1,134 million units in a 90 per cent dependable year.

SPACE RESEARCH

IRS-1B launched successfully

* India's second remote sensing satellite, IRS-1B, shot into space on a Soviet rocket on August 29, 1991 notching its eighth success in space in 16 years.

The indigenously designed state-of-the-art remote sensing satellite, was successfully launched from Baikonur cosmodrome in the Soviet Union on Soviet rocket "Vostok".

It was the fifth launch of an Indian Satellite from the Soviet Union. All of them have been successful like the first, Aryabhata, launched on March 19, 1975. The other satellites are Bhaskara-I, Bhaskara-II, and IRS-1A.

Built by the ISRO Satellite Centre at Bangalore, it will replace IRS-1A which was launched on March 17, 1988 and is nearing the end of its life. IRS-1A has provided invaluable data for better use of country's agriculture, land, mineral, marine and water resources.

The new satellite will telemeter the data directly to ISRO ground station at Shadnagar near Hyderabad.

The satellite will orbit over the poles at a height of 904 km taking nearly 103 minutes for each orbit. The polar orbit will enable the spacecraft to re-visit a specific region of the earth once every 22 days.

IRS-1B weighs about 980 kg and carries a 700 watt solar array. Its main payload consists of three cameras to provide visible and infrared imageries of the earth.

IRS-1B will scan the sub-continent using the liner imaging and self-scanning LISS cameras that provide a synoptic view of the sub-continent. The high-tech cameras were indigenously made at the Space Applications Centre in Ahmedabad.

Three year's experience with IRS-1A has led to some modifications

and improvements in IRS-1B. The modifications have resulted in an increase of payload by 12 kg.

Future satellites in the series—IRS-1C and IRS-1D—would be more advanced both in resolution and revisit capability. Preliminary design of these satellites has been completed and their launches are scheduled for 1993 and 1996. The successful launch of IRS-1B has given a boost to the IRS programme—conceived and developed by ISRO in order to support the National Natural Resources Management System.

Launched on March 17, 1988, the data obtained from the IRS-1A satellite during the last three years has helped in determining crop acreage and their yield.

The satellite also provided information on the drought and flood-affected areas and helped officials to assess crop damage.

Another important area covered is the mapping of the ground water potential zone. In addition, a nationwide project for land use and land cover, mapping of various cities, including the Bombay metropolitan region, has been carried out through the IRS-1A imageries.

Observatory in Space

* On April 6, 1991 the space shuttle *Atlantis* smoothly sailed into the space as its five astronauts prepared for the deployment of a 17-tonne space observatory and the first US spacewalk since 1985.

On April 8, 1991 the crew deployed the massive space observatory that could give clues to the origins of the universe. The 17-tonne Gamma ray observatory is the largest science satellite to be put in space by a US space shuttle.

The \$617 million observatory will have solar panels stretched 6.5 metres across when fully deployed. It will orbit 460 km above earth for at least two years looking for sources of ultra high-frequency radio waves called Gamma Rays.

Gamma Rays, which are not detectable from the earth's surface and are not visible to the human eye, are thought to hold the secret about the origin of the universe and the formation of heavy metal elements.

Satellite to 'see' space launched

* The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States has launched a scientific research satellite that will permit scientists to study the invisible magnetic and electrical fields above earth's atmosphere by "painting" them with colourful chemicals.

The combined release and radiation effects satellite was launched on July 25, 1990 on board an unmanned Atlas rocket.

A joint project of NASA and the US air force, the satellite is to test the effect of space radiation on advanced electronic components in addition to releasing its cargo of colourful chemicals.

SUMMIT

'Earth summit' to focus on biotech

* Recognising the role of biotechnology in checking environmental degradation, experts will discuss five areas at the 1992 "earth summit" to be held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from June 1 to 12, 1992. The summit will be held under the UN auspices.

The conference will be attended by heads of government from over 160 countries. It will be first such global effort to link the issues of the environment and development.

The conference will discuss natural resources, ozone depletion, climate changes, land resources, drinking water supply, oceans, toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes.

UN

Seven new members

* The General Assembly admitted seven new members on September 18, 1991 whose entry into the UN would have been unthinkable at the height of the cold war.

The new members—North and South Korea, the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and the two pacific island-nations of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands—were admitted by the assembly by acclamation.

All had been unanimously endorsed by the Security Council. The UN now has 166 members, as compared to 51 at its founding in 1945. The new members reflect the dramatic changes that have come

with the end of the cold war.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania recently regained their independence, 51 years after their annexation by Moscow. They were active members of the UN's predecessor, the League of Nations, until 1939, when Adolf Hitler's Germany and Joseph Stalin's USSR secretly decided their fate for the next half century.

The UN waged a war from 1950 to 1953 against the Communist North Korea. For many years afterwards, North Korea opposed separate UN membership for the two Korean States on grounds that it would perpetuate their separation.

The federated States of Micronesia and the republic of the Marshall Islands are the two Pacific Island-nations previously administered by the US as part of a UN trust territory. The admission of the seven new members marked the biggest single influx since 1960, when 17 countries were admitted to the world body. Six joined in 1962 and six in 1975.

MISCELLANY

Tallest TV tower in Ramgarh

* The country's tallest TV tower is being constructed near Ramgarh village in Jaisalmer district, on the Indo-Pakistan border. The extraordinary height of the tower—300 metres—would extend *Doordarshan* coverage to remote areas. Programmes relayed through it, by a 10 kw transmitter, would be received in an area of 250 sq km, covering villages of Jaisalmer, Barmer and Jodhpur districts.

With a 255 metre concrete structure and a 45 metre steel mast, the Ramgarh TV tower would be 65 metre taller than the TV tower in Delhi. At 235 metre, the Delhi tower is the tallest in the country, at present.

India's forest cover loss 'alarming'

* India's environmental stability is at stake as the country's forest cover is diminishing at an alarming rate of 47,500 hectares per annum, says a report of the Forest Survey of India (FSI) titled "State of Forest Report—1989".

With only 11.51 per cent of the country's total geographical area

having adequate forest cover as against the stipulated 33 per cent, the situation is almost reaching crisis proportions.

The average growing stock of wood too is only about 65 cubic metres per hectare which compares poorly with the world standards of 110 cubic metres per hectare.

The country has only 64.01 million hectares of actual forest cover as against the recorded 75.1 million hectares and out of this only 37.85 million hectares have over 40 per cent crown density forest area.

The 16,456 sq km increase in dense forest cover as a result of Government's conservation efforts, was offset by the decrease of open forests by over 19,714 sq km.

First hospital on rails

* The world's first hospital on rails, Lifeline Express, was flagged off by 12-year-old Sangeeta Pagdhare on July 16, 1991.

The project will cover the entire country on the Indian Railway's vast network, penetrating remote areas where medical facilities are not available.

Launched by impact India and Indian Railways it will provide free medical aid to the disabled through its team of medical experts and social workers.

Longest total solar eclipse on July 11, 1991

* July 11 witnessed one of the longest total solar eclipses in history.

Two hours after dawn, the moon eclipsed the sun directly over the world's greatest collection of six telescopes on top of Mauna Kea in Hawaii. The centre of the 240 km-wide shadow cast by the eclipse passed within two km of the telescopes conducting experiments. Thus the July 11 eclipse was observed without scientists having to stir out of their observatories.

The shadow swept across the surface of the earth at a speed of about 9000 km per hour. The eclipse lasted for 206 minutes along a path stretching from the mid-Pacific through central America to Brazil.

Round-up of Objective-Type Questions on General Awareness

HISTORY

1 Which party was organised by Subhash Chandra Bose after leaving Congress?

- (a) Forward Bloc
- (b) Swaraj Party
- (c) INA

2 Who was defeated in the second battle of Panipat by Akbar?

- (a) Medini Rai
- (b) Amber Singh
- (c) Hemu
- (d) Adil Shah

3 Who was the first Indian Governor-General of India after Independence?

- (a) Mountbatten
- (b) C Rajagopalachari
- (c) Pandit Nehru
- (d) Sardar Patel

4 Kushans came from

- (a) Bactria
- (b) China
- (c) Central Provinces
- (d) Afghanistan

5 Babar won the first battle of Panipat because of

- (a) superior artillery
- (b) lack of valour on the part of Indian kings
- (c) treachery of Nobles of Lodhi
- (d) None of these

6 Humayun was defeated in the battle of Chausa because

- (a) he was weak and incompetent
- (b) he was no match to Sher Shah
- (c) his brothers did not help him
- (d) None of the above

7 Attention on the Revenue System was paid for the first time by

- (a) Iltutmish
- (b) Alauddin Khilji
- (c) Balban
- (d) Firuz Shah

8 A sound administrative system was introduced for the first time in Delhi Sultanate by

- (a) Iltutmish
- (b) Balban
- (c) Alauddin Khilji
- (d) Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq

9 Who was deputed by Aurangzeb to suppress Shivaji?

- (a) Shaista Khan
- (b) Afzal Khan
- (c) Jai Singh
- (d) Amber Singh

10 By the Treaty of Sangola which among the following happened?

- (a) The power of Peshwa increased
- (b) Shambaji was defeated
- (c) The English found footage on Maharashtra
- (d) Tarabai became ruler of Kohlapur

11 The Parsis first came into India at

- (a) Bharuch
- (b) Surat
- (c) Diu
- (d) Calicut

12 The primary cause for the decline of Indus Valley was

- (a) foreign invasion
- (b) floods
- (c) climatic change
- (d) drought

13 By which Act the East India Company was given power to rule?

- (a) Regulating Act
- (b) Pitt's India Act
- (c) Charter Act of 1813
- (d) Charter Act of 1833

14 By Gandhi Irwin Pact, which among the following movement was withdrawn?

- (a) Non-cooperation
- (b) Civil disobedience
- (c) Quit-India movement
- (d) None of these

15 The number of Puranas is

- (a) 18
- (b) 16
- (c) 19
- (d) 21

16 Buddha was born in the year

- (a) 534 B C

- (b) 567 B C
- (c) 576 B C
- (d) 581 B C

17 Mahavira was the ___ Tirthankara

- (a) 24th
- (b) 21st
- (c) 23rd
- (d) 20th

18 Who was/were the founder/founders of the Vijaynagar Empire?

- (a) Krishnadeva Raya
- (b) Deva Raya
- (c) Rama Raya
- (d) Hari Hara and Bukka

19 The Chinese pilgrim Fa-hien visited India during the reign of

- (a) Chandragupta I
- (b) Chandragupta II
- (c) Asoka
- (d) None of these

20 Who founded the Mughal empire in India?

- (a) Babur
- (b) Humayun
- (c) Akbar
- (d) Muhammad Ghori

21 Chand Bibi, who ceded Berar to Akbar's forces was the ruler of

- (a) Khandesh
- (b) Ahmednagar
- (c) Golkonda
- (d) Bijapur

22 Muhammad Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan in the second battle of

- (a) Tarain
- (b) Panipat
- (c) Samugarh
- (d) None of these

23 During Mughal period who was the head of religious endowments and Charities?

- (a) Khan-i-Saman
- (b) Mir Bakhshi
- (c) Sadr-i-Sadr
- (d) None of these

24 Which metal was not known to the Indus people?

- (a) bronze
- (b) silver

- (c) gold
(d) iron
25. The 'Gandhara School of Art' was also known as:
(a) Indo-Greek Art
(b) Mathura School
(c) Amravati School
(d) Greco-Bactrian
26. Charaka and Nagarjuna were active during the reign of:
(a) Bimbisara
(b) Chandragupta I
(c) Kanishka
(d) Hadipses
27. Aihole inscription gives information regarding:
(a) Pulakesin II
(b) Pulakesin I
(c) Kanishka
(d) Ashoka
28. Who was known as the 'Liberator of the Press'?
(a) Metcalfe
(b) Macaulay
(c) Bentinck
(d) Hastings
29. The name of whom is associated with the introduction of English education?
(a) Metcalfe
(b) Macaulay
(c) Dalhousie
(d) None of these
30. The immediate cause of 1857 Revolt was:
(a) Greased cartridges
(b) Annexation of Oudh
(c) Religious intolerance of the English
(d) None of these
31. During whose viceroyalty, Queen Victoria was crowned with 'Kaiser-i-Hind' in the Delhi Durbar?
(a) Lord Minto
(b) Lytton
(c) Elgin
(d) Hastings
32. The capital of Kalachuri was at:
(a) Tripuri
(b) Manayaked
(c) Peshawar
(d) Mandu
33. In which State is the temple of Somnath situated?
(a) Madhya Pradesh
(b) Rajasthan
(c) Gujarat
(d) Karnataka
34. Who among the following Indian kings was defeated for the first time by Mahmud of Ghazni?
(a) Jaipal

- (b) Anandpala
(c) Trilochanpala
(d) Chakrayudha
35. Who among the following visitors of Shahjahan's court was physician?
(a) Tavernier
(b) Munucci
(c) Bernier
(d) Thomas Roe
36. The Hunter Commission under Lord Rippon made recommendation for improvement in:
(a) University education
(b) Primary School education
(c) Indigenous system of education
(d) Hindu-Muslim relations
37. The script of Indus Valley Civilization is:
(a) in Prakrit language
(b) in Dravidian language
(c) in Sanskrit language
(d) not yet deciphered
38. Who gave the call: 'Dilli Chalo'?
(a) Jawahar Lal Nehru
(b) Lala Lajpat Rai
(c) Subhash Chandra Bose
(d) Mahatma Gandhi
39. India carried out its first nuclear underground test at:
(a) Pokharan
(b) Thumba
(c) Narora
(d) Kota
40. Tarik-i-Firuzshahi was written by:
(a) Firuz Shah
(b) Ziyauddin Berni
(c) Siraj
(d) Afiz
41. Who was the last Mughal King?
(a) Bahadur Shah II
(b) Shah Alam
(c) Akbar-II
(d) Muhammad Shah
42. Who established the Dual Government in Bengal?
(a) Clive
(b) Hastings
(c) Cornwallis
(d) Elgin
43. What was one of the most important causes of Mughal Empire's downfall?
(a) Aurangzeb's fanatic policy
(b) political
(c) miserable economic conditions
(d) institutional
44. Who among the following

- Governors-General was impeached by the British Parliament?
(a) Wellesley
(b) Cornwallis
(c) Hastings
(d) Minto
45. From which source we acquire the knowledge of the battle fought between the Aryans and the non-Aryans?
(a) Vedas
(b) Puranas
(c) Upanishads
(d) Smritis
46. The reign of Satavahanas lasted approximately for:
(a) 200 years
(b) 300 years
(c) 400 years
(d) 460 years
47. The word 'Veda' means:
(a) knowledge
(b) sacred
(c) revealed
(d) None of these
48. The Indus valley civilization was primarily:
(a) rustic
(b) urban
(c) nomadic
(d) None of these
49. The most important change caused by the revolt of 1857:
(a) change in military system
(b) change of attitude of the English towards Princes
(c) The rule of East India Company came to an end
(d) The Mughal Empire disintegrated
50. India was partitioned by the:
(a) Cabinet mission
(b) Cripps Mission
(c) Mountbatten Plan of 3rd June, 1947
(d) None of these
51. Gandhiji withdrew Non-cooperation movement after:
(a) Chauri-Chaura incident
(b) Gandhi-Irwin Pact
(c) Cripps Mission
(d) None of these
52. Non-cooperation movement (Resolution) was passed in which session of Indian National Congress?
(a) Bombay
(b) Calcutta
(c) Nagpur
(d) Haripur
53. Match List 1 with List 2 and select your answer from the code given below the lists:

List 1

- a. Govt of India Act 1919
- b. Govt of India Act 1935
- c. Minto Morley Reforms
- d. Cabinet Mission Plan

List 2

- 1. Provincial Autonomy
- 2. Separate Electorate
- 3. Dyarchy
- 4. Constituent Assembly

Codes:

A.	a	b	c	d
	1	2	3	4
B.	a	b	c	d
	2	4	3	1
C.	a	b	c	d
	4	1	3	2
D.	a	b	c	d
	3	1	2	4

54. Muslims were given separate electorate by the Act of:

- (a) 1866
- (b) 1892
- (c) 1909
- (d) 1919

55. Which Act provided for All-India Federation at the Centre?

- (a) Act of 1909
- (b) Act of 1919
- (c) Act of 1935
- (d) None of these

56. Treaty of Purandhar (establishing a general peace between the English and Marathas) was signed in:

- (a) 1730
- (b) 1754
- (c) 1760
- (d) 1776

57. About whom it was said, "He was a fortunate soldier but not an able Empire builder":

- (a) Babur
- (b) Humayun
- (c) Jahangir
- (d) Shah Jahan

58. Ancient port city of Indus Valley people was:

- (a) Lothal
- (b) Sindhu
- (c) Mohenjodaro
- (d) Harappa

59. The people of RIGVEDA period believed in:

- (a) Idol worship
- (b) worship of Goddesses
- (c) one God
- (d) rituals and sacrifices

60. Gandhiji started the famous Dandi March on March 12, 1930 to:

- (a) break the salt laws
- (b) offer satyagraha to achieve

- the goal of independence
- (c) protest against the Jallian-wala Bagh massacre
- (d) give a call for civil disobedience movement

61. Who started "Bhoodan" movement?

- (a) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- (b) Jawahar Lal Nehru
- (c) Acharya Vinoba Bhave
- (d) Mahatma Gandhi

62. After the decline of the Guptas a large part of North India was reunited by the:

- (a) Rajputs
- (b) Chalukyas
- (c) Saka Satraps
- (d) Harshavardhan

63. Buddha's preachings were mainly related to:

- (a) Belief in one God
- (b) Practice of Rituals
- (c) Purity of Thought and Conduct
- (d) Idol Worship

64. Which dynasty was well known for excellent Village Administration?

- (a) Pandyas
- (b) Cholas
- (c) Pallavas
- (d) Chalukyas

65. Which of the following Indian kings excelled in Art and Music?

- (a) Chandra Gupta Maurya
- (b) Chandra Gupta II
- (c) Samudra Gupta
- (d) Harshavardhan

66. Sher Shah died while fighting in:

- (a) Kannaui
- (b) Chausa
- (c) Asirgarh
- (d) Kalinjar

67. In the fourth Mysore war, the English defeated:

- (a) Tipu Sultan
- (b) Hyder Ali
- (c) Bikram Singh
- (d) None of these

68. About first Afghan war (1839-42) which among the following is right:

- (a) The English defeated the Afghans
- (b) The English gained ascendancy on Afghanistan
- (c) The English suffered great losses
- (d) None of these

69. Harsha Vardhana lived in:

- (a) 406-447 A.D.
- (b) 506-547 A.D.

- (c) 606-647 A.D.
- (d) 706-747 A.D.

70. First battle of Panipat was fought in the year:

- (a) 1426
- (b) 1526
- (c) 1626
- (d) 1726

71. Buland Darwaza was built by:

- (a) Shahjahan
- (b) Aurangzeb
- (c) Akbar
- (d) Jahangir

72. Who among the following is associated with Permanent Settlement of Bengal?

- (a) Lord Dalhousie
- (b) Lord Curzon
- (c) Lord Cornwallis
- (d) William Bentinck

73. Brahmo Samaj was founded by:

- (a) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- (b) Shankaracharya
- (c) Vinoba Bhave
- (d) Vivekananda

74. The first sermon of Buddha was delivered at:

- (a) Lumbini
- (b) Gaya
- (c) Kapilvastu
- (d) Sarnath

75. The Indian National Calendar is based on:

- (a) Vikram era
- (b) Hijri era
- (c) Saka era
- (d) Christian era

76. Simon Commission failed because:

- (a) It had no Indian members (all Englishmen)
- (b) Muslim League boycotted it
- (c) Congress also boycotted it
- (d) None of these

77. Who among the following was not associated with Home Rule Movement?

- (a) Mrs Annie Besant
- (b) B.G. Tilak
- (c) B.C. Pal
- (d) Mohd Ali Jinnah

78. The entire military organisation was put under Mansabdari system by:

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Humayun
- (c) Shah Jahan
- (d) Aurangzeb

79. Which session of the Indian National Congress adopted the

- resolution on "Purna Swarajya"?
- (a) Lahore Session
(b) Lucknow Session
(c) Surat Session
(d) Bombay Session
- 80 Famous Dilwara Jain Temples" are located in which of the following States?
- (a) Bihar
(b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Rajasthan
(d) Gujarat
- 81 Which ruler of Gupta dynasty was considered a great musician?
- (a) Chandragupta I
(b) Chandragupta II
(c) Samudragupta
(d) Sakandagupta
- 82 Which battle completely changed Asoka?
- (a) Kalinga
(b) Hydaspes
(c) Jhelum
(d) None of these
- 83 The coronation of Shivaji was held in
- (a) 1672
(b) 1674
(c) 1707
(d) 1730
- 84 Who was the successor of Shivaji?
- (a) Shivaji II
(b) Sahu II
(c) Ramraja
(d) Shambhaji
- 85 The Chola's reign was best known for
- (a) Local Self-Government
(b) Agrarian reform
(c) Financial reform
(d) Architectural innovation
- 86 Which one of the following countries was the centre of activities of the I N A ?
- (a) Singapore
(b) Burma
(c) Tibet
(d) Ceylon
- 87 The great Satavahana King was
- (a) Hala
(b) Gautamiputra Satakarni
(c) Kulothunga
(d) Virarajendra
- 88 Who built the famous temples at Khajuraho?
- (a) Ganga Kings
(b) Pallavas
(c) Rashtrakutas
(d) Chandellas
- 89 Qutub-ud-din Aibak ruled

- from
- (a) 1206-10
(b) 1206-1208
(c) 1206-1261
(d) 1206-1223
- 90 "Zabti system" of revenue was prevalent during whose reign?
- (a) Babur
(b) Humayun
(c) Akbar
(d) Jahangir
- 91 On whose instance the Hindu scriptures (Upanishad) was translated into Persian?
- (a) Khusrau
(b) Shahjahan
(c) Murad
(d) Dara Shikoh
- 92 The 'miniature painting' reached its climax during the reign of
- (a) Akbar
(b) Jahangir
(c) Shahjahan
(d) Aurangzeb
- 93 In the revolt of 1857, the Sikhs
- (a) remained neutral
(b) supported the British
(c) supported the forces of Bahadur Shah Zafar
(d) fought valiantly against the British
- 94 During whose Viceroyalty, the Ilbert Bill controversy happened?
- (a) Rippon
(b) Minto
(c) Curzon
(d) Reading
- 95 Who abolished Jaziya?
- (a) Humayun
(b) Akbar
(c) Jahangir
(d) None of these
- 96 The practice of 'Sati' was abolished by
- (a) Lord William Bentinck
(b) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
(c) Lord Cornwallis
(d) Lord Dalhousie
- 97 After disintegration of Bahmani Kingdom, it was divided into — small kingdoms
- (a) 3
(b) 4
(c) 5
(d) 7
- 98 The first month of the Indian National Calendar is
- (a) Ashadha
(b) Chaitra
(c) Vaishakha
(d) Magha

- 99 During whose reign Mewar came to conclude peace treaty with Mughals?
- (a) Akbar
(b) Jahangir
(c) Shahjahan
(d) None of these
- 100 "Communal award" was presented by
- (a) Minto
(b) Attlee
(c) MacDonald
(d) Stafford Cripps

GEOGRAPHY

- 101 The star-like objects at the edge of the universe are
- (a) Quasars
(b) Galaxy
(c) Black hole
(d) Comet
- 102 Irrigation facilities should be improved urgently in India because
- (a) Irrigation yields better output
(b) Monsoon is irregular
(c) Rivers are dry during most of the period in the year
(d) Land under cultivation is small
- 103 The Sun derives its energy from
- (a) Nuclear fusion reactions
(b) Nuclear fission radiation
(c) Oxidation of Helium
(d) Fission of Noble metals
- 104 Chulgin hills of "Barwani" are located in the State of
- (a) Bihar
(b) U P
(c) M P
(d) Assam
- 105 The Himalayan mountain system belongs to which of the following?
- (a) Block Mountains
(b) Fold Mountains
(c) Residual Mountains
(d) Volcanic Mountains
- 106 Himalayan rivers have continuous flow throughout the year because:
- (a) these originate from continuous falls
(b) there are continuous rain throughout the year on Himalayas
(c) these are both snow-fed and rain-fed
(d) None of these
107. The oldest mountains in India according to Geographical his-

tory are:

- (a) Nilgiris
- (b) Satpura range
- (c) Vindhyas
- (d) Aravali range

108. Granite belongs to which of the following types of rocks?

- (a) Sedimentary
- (b) Igneous
- (c) Metamorphic
- (d) None of these

109. Which of the following States is the largest producer of rubber in India?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Kerala

110. The biggest producer of uranium in the world is:

- (a) U.S.A.
- (b) India
- (c) France
- (d) Zaire

111. Relative humidity of a place is measured by:

- (a) amount of rainfall at that place
- (b) quantity of air under the sea per unit area
- (c) the state of atmosphere with respect to the water vapour it contains
- (d) quantity of air at the centre of the earth per unit area

112. Match List 1 with List 2 and select your answer from the code given below the lists:

List 1

- a. Kumaon Himalayas
- b. Nepal Himalayas
- c. Punjab Himalayas
- d. Assam Himalayas

List 2

- 1. Between the Indus and the Sutlej
- 2. Between the Kali and the Teesta
- 3. Between the Teesta and the Brahmaputra
- 4. Between the Sutlej and the Kali

Codes:

- | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|
| A. | a | b | c | d |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| B. | a | b | c | d |
| | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| C. | a | b | c | d |
| | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| D. | a | b | c | d |
| | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 |

113. Place the different layers of Atmosphere in the correct sequence

- (a) Troposphere, Ionosphere, Stratosphere, Mesosphere
- (b) Stratosphere, Mesosphere, Ionosphere, Troposphere
- (c) Troposphere, Stratosphere, Mesosphere, Ionosphere
- (d) Ionosphere, Stratosphere, Mesosphere, Troposphere

114. Of which of the following States, retreating monsoon has more effect?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Orissa
- (d) Punjab

115. Uranium is most abundantly found in which of the following Indian States?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Bihar

116. As per the latest estimates, which country is the biggest producer of sugar?

- (a) Brazil
- (b) France
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) India

117. When a person moves from a Pole towards the Equator, the population of plants and animals.

- (a) increases
- (b) decreases
- (c) remains unchanged
- (d) does not show any consistent behaviour

118. Which of the following is not a cash crop?

- (a) cotton
- (b) tea
- (c) rubber
- (d) potato

119. Match List 1 with List 2 and select your answer from the code given below the lists.

List 1

- a. Black Soil
- b. Red Soil
- c. Laterite
- d. Alluvial

List 2

- 1. Uttar Pradesh
- 2. Orissa
- 3. Maharashtra
- 4. West Bengal

Codes:

- | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|
| A | a | b | c | d |
| | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| B. | a | b | c | d |
| | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| C. | a | b | c | d |
| | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| D. | a | b | c | d |
| | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 |

120. Tendu leaves are mainly produced in:

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Orissa
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Karnataka

121. Boundaries of which of the following States do not touch the boundaries of Gujarat State?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

122. "Hinterland" means:

- (a) Land area served by a port
- (b) Delta area
- (c) Mountainous area
- (d) Coastal area

123. Of the following, which is Kharif crop?

- (a) Maize
- (b) Linseed
- (c) Mustard
- (d) Wheat

124. Mica is abundantly found in the district of:

- (a) Cuddappa
- (b) Nellore
- (c) Warangal
- (d) Krishna

125. Which of the following crops is grown and consumed on the largest scale in India?

- (a) Wheat
- (b) Rice
- (c) Maize
- (d) Gram

126. Soil suitable for growing cotton is:

- (a) Black soil
- (b) Sandy soil
- (c) Red soil
- (d) Laterite soil

127. Sundarbans is a good example of:

- (a) Scrub forests
- (b) Evergreen forests
- (c) Monsoon forests
- (d) Mangrove forests

128. Largest State in India in terms of area is:

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Bihar

129. Which of the following is known as the morning star?

- (a) Saturn
- (b) Venus
- (c) Jupiter
- (d) Mars

130. Match List 1 with List 2 and select your answer from the code

given below the lists:

List 1 (Minerals)	List 2 (Chief regions of minerals' extrac- tion)
a. Coal	1. Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh
b. Petroleum	2. Bihar, Andhra Pradesh
c. Manganese	3. Bihar, Bengal
d. Mica	4. Maharashtra, Karnataka
	5. Assam, Gujarat

Codes

A	a	b	c	d
	3	5	1	2
B	a	b	c	d
	2	1	3	4
C	a	b	c	d
	2	5	3	1
D	a	b	c	d
	5	3	4	2

131 Match List 1 with List 2 and select your answer from the code given below the lists:

List 1	List 2
a. Bongaigaon	1. Aluminium plant
b. Korba	2. Atomic power station
c. Hyderabad	3. Oil refinery
d. Narora	4. Heavy water
	5. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd

Codes:

A	a	b	c	d
	3	2	1	4
B	a	b	c	d
	3	2	4	1
C	a	b	c	d
	3	1	5	2
D	a	b	c	d
	3	5	4	1

132 The nearest planet to the sun is.

- (a) Saturn
- (b) Mars
- (c) Venus
- (d) Mercury

133 Baikal Lake is in:

- (a) Thar Desert
- (b) Sahara Desert
- (c) Siberian Desert
- (d) California Desert

134. The International Date Line passes through:

- (a) Palk Strait
- (b) Cape of Good Hope
- (c) Gibraltar
- (d) Bering Strait

GENERAL INFORMATION

135. Who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces in India?

- (a) President
- (b) Prime Minister
- (c) Field Marshal
- (d) Chief of the Army Staff

136. A law passed by a State on a concurrent subject gets precedence over the Central law, if:

- (a) it was passed earlier than the Central law
- (b) it was passed by the State Legislature and approved by the President
- (c) the Supreme Court so decides
- (d) the majority of the State Legislature so decides

137. Directive Principles of State Policy are contained in:

- (a) Part I of the Constitution
- (b) Part II of the Constitution
- (c) Part III of the Constitution
- (d) Part IV of the Constitution

138. Which of the following is not included in the Fundamental Rights of the Constitution of India?

- (a) Right to property
- (b) Right to freedom of religion
- (c) Right to equality
- (d) Right to freedom of speech and expression

139. Which can be levied by the State Government?

- (a) Wealth tax
- (b) Professional tax
- (c) Income Tax
- (d) Excise duty

140. "Grants in aid" is provided to the States by the Centre for:

- (a) improving the development of rural areas
- (b) improving the Centre-State relations
- (c) implementing various development programmes and rehabilitation
- (d) reducing the regional imbalances

141. When a bill is passed by Parliament, the President has the power to:

- (a) return it for reconsideration
- (b) refuse to sign it
- (c) amend the Bill
- (d) consult the Speaker of the Lok Sabha

142. The Union Territories are administered by:

- (a) President of India

(b) Governor of a neighbouring State

(c) Prime Minister

(d) Administrator

143. The concept of Welfare State is included in the Constitution of India in the:

- (a) Preamble
- (b) Fundamental Rights
- (c) Fourth Schedule
- (d) The Directive Principles of State Policy

144. What is land-ceiling?

- (a) to fix a land area for irrigation purposes
- (b) to fix rural land holdings at the existing level
- (c) to fix urban land held by a family
- (d) to fix the quantum of land held by a family

145. The President may be removed from office by impeachment, only when.

- (a) he so desires
- (b) The resolution for impeachment must be passed by 1/3 majority of the total membership of the House.
- (c) The resolution for impeachment must be passed by 2/3 majority of the total membership of the Parliament.
- (d) Chief Justice of the Supreme Court dismisses him.

146. The President of India is elected by:

- (a) Members of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies
- (b) Elected Members of Parliament
- (c) Elected Members of Parliament and State Assemblies
- (d) The Prime Minister

147. Which of the following is the largest contributor to the total tax revenue of the Government (Centre, State and Union Territory Administrations)?

- (a) Income Tax
- (b) Corporation Tax
- (c) Customs Duties
- (d) Union Excise Duties

148. Direct Taxes are taxes:

- (a) whose burden is very high
- (b) whose impact and incidence is on the same person
- (c) whose impact and incidence is on different persons
- (d) which are paid for the services rendered by the Government departments

directly to the consumer

149. Which of the following has ceased to be a Fundamental Right in the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Right to Freedom of Speech
- (b) Right to form Educational Institutions
- (c) Right to Property
- (d) Right to Constitutional Remedies

150. Which one of the following rights was described by Dr B.R. Ambedkar as 'The Heart and Soul of the Constitution'?

- (a) Right to Freedom of Religion
- (b) Right to Property
- (c) Right to Equality
- (d) Right to Constitutional Remedies

151. Which of the following constitutional amendment deals with the Anti-Defection Law?

- (a) 51st Amendment
- (b) 52nd Amendment
- (c) 53rd Amendment
- (d) 54th Amendment

152. Which Article empowers the Indian Parliament to amend the Constitution?

- (a) 343
- (b) 368
- (c) 378
- (d) 358

153. A team of men selected by the party in opposition to take over the different portfolios in case the party is able to wrest power is known as:

- (a) inner Cabinet
- (b) Shadow Cabinet
- (c) Caucus
- (d) Prorogation

154. What is the minimum voting age in India?

- (a) 18 years
- (b) 19 years
- (c) 20 years
- (d) 21 years

155. The Council of Ministers in a parliamentary type of government is responsible to the:

- (a) Prime Minister
- (b) Parliament
- (c) Head of State
- (d) Lower House of the Parliament

156. A person who is not a member of either House of Parliament in India, can remain as a Minister for a maximum period of:

- (a) six months
- (b) three months

- (c) two months
- (d) five months

157. The Lok Sabha in India can be dissolved by the:

- (a) Prime Minister
- (b) President on the advice of the Prime Minister
- (c) Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- (d) Speaker of the Lok Sabha on advice of the Prime Minister

158. The meetings of the Cabinet under parliamentary form of government are presided over by the:

- (a) Chairman of the Upper House
- (b) Speaker
- (c) President
- (d) Prime Minister

159. The real executive powers in a parliamentary form of Government rest with the:

- (a) Head of State
- (b) Union Cabinet
- (c) Supreme Court
- (d) Parliament

160. Universal adult franchise means:

- (a) All people living in a country have the right to vote
- (b) All the male population of a country have the right to vote
- (c) All the male adults of a country have the right to vote
- (d) All the adults of a country have the right to vote irrespective of caste, creed, religion, sex or place of birth (except aliens and lunatics)

161. Guru Granth Sahib was compiled by:

- (a) Guru Tegh Bahadur
- (b) Guru Nanak
- (c) Guru Gobind Singh
- (d) Guru Arjan Dev

162. The largest spoken language in the world is:

- (a) English
- (b) Hindi
- (c) Spanish
- (d) Mandarin (Chinese)

163. Saikan, the longest railway tunnel, is located in:

- (a) Namibia
- (b) Switzerland
- (c) Egypt
- (d) Japan

164. Homoeopathy was intro-

duced by:

- (a) Banting
- (b) Fleming
- (c) Hahnemann
- (d) Pasteur

165. India comprises:

- (a) 22 States and 5 Union Territories
- (b) 22 States and 9 Union Territories
- (c) 25 States and 7 Union Territories
- (d) None of these

166. India's medium range surface-to-air missile is:

- (a) Prithvi
- (b) Akash
- (c) Vibhuti
- (d) Agni

167. Which is called the Fourth Estate?

- (a) Judiciary
- (b) Press
- (c) Legislature
- (d) None of these

168. The headquarters of SAARC is located at:

- (a) Kathmandu
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Islamabad
- (d) Dhaka

169. Myanmar is the new name of:

- (a) Bhutan
- (b) Burma
- (c) Thailand
- (d) Malaysia

170. The Rath Yatra at Puri is celebrated in honour of which Hindu deity?

- (a) Shiva
- (b) Jagannath
- (c) Vishnu
- (d) Ram

171. 'Mona Lisa' was painted by:

- (a) Vincent Van Gogh
- (b) Leonardo-da-Vinci
- (c) Pablo Picasso
- (d) M.F. Hussain

172. Which is the oldest daily newspaper existing in India?

- (a) Times of India
- (b) Anand Bazaar Patrika
- (c) Navbharat Times
- (d) Mumbai Samachar

173. Which is the most widely circulated daily newspaper in India?

- (a) Anand Bazaar Patrika
- (b) Malayala Manorama
- (c) Times of India
- (d) Navbharat Times

174. Psycho-analysis test was introduced by:

- (a) Darwin
(b) Freud
(c) Werner
(d) Binet
- 175 Who invented logarithms?
(a) Newton
(b) Dalton
(c) Cavendish
(d) Napier
- 176 The population of India according to the 1991 Census is
(a) 80.2 crores
(b) 82.2 crores
(c) 84.4 crores
(d) 88.5 crores
- 177 Public Sector means
(a) Trade and industry previously private owned and now owned by government
(b) Trade and industry partly owned by private bodies and partly by government
(c) Trade and industry owned by government
(d) None of these
- 178 Rural Development Programmes are related to
(a) giving jobs to the poorer graduates
(b) assist unemployed youth
(c) poverty alleviation in States
(d) self-employment
- 179 Which country became 160th member of the UN?
(a) Switzerland
(b) Bulgaria
(c) Namibia
(d) Czechoslovakia
- 180 A Good citizen is one who
(a) is aware of his social obligations
(b) obeys one's parents
(c) is educated
(d) is an M.L.A.
- 181 A Multinational Company is
(a) an international body to help developing countries
(b) a Company operating in many countries
(c) a person who has visited many countries
(d) a Company established with foreign assistance
- 182 India's contribution in world exports is
(a) 4%
(b) 8%
(c) 15%
(d) 19%

- 183 Which committee was related with the policies and programmes for Agriculture?
(a) Boothalingam Committee
(b) Wanchoo Committee
(c) Bhanu Pratap Singh Committee
(d) Aggarwal Committee
- 184 In a camera, retina in the eyes act as a
(a) film
(b) lens
(c) shutter
(d) None of these
- 185 Secularism means
(a) A system of political or social philosophy that does not favour any religious faith
(b) freedom of religion or worship to all citizens
(c) belief in one God
(d) practicing different religions
- 186 Main source of India's national income is
(a) Agriculture
(b) Tourism
(c) Industry
(d) None of these
- 187 Which of the following is not common between Socialism and Communism?
(a) Violence
(b) Nationalisation
(c) Removal of inequality
(d) Equality of opportunities
- 188 Largest source of energy in India is
(a) hydro electric
(b) solar
(c) thermal
(d) nuclear
- 189 India's first indigenously developed super computer has been named
(a) Param
(b) Shakti
(c) Dharam
(d) Gati
- 190 Ayurveda deals with
(a) 'Life knowledge' (science of health)
(b) Treatises on Vedas
(c) Performing sacrifices
(d) Hymns for God

ANSWERS

HISTORY

- | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 (a) | 2 (c) | 3 (b) |
| 4 (a) | 5 (a) | 6 (c) |
| 7 (c) | 8 (a) | 9 (a) |
| 10 (a) | 11 (c) | 12 (b) |

- | | | |
|---------|--------|--------|
| 13 (a) | 14 (b) | 15 (a) |
| 16 (b) | 17 (a) | 18 (d) |
| 19 (b) | 20 (a) | 21 (b) |
| 22 (a) | 23 (c) | 24 (d) |
| 25 (a) | 26 (c) | 27 (a) |
| 28 (a) | 29 (b) | 30 (a) |
| 31 (b) | 32 (a) | 33 (c) |
| 34 (a) | 35 (d) | 36 (a) |
| 37 (d) | 38 (c) | 39 (a) |
| 40 (b) | 41 (a) | 42 (a) |
| 43 (c) | 44 (c) | 45 (a) |
| 46 (d) | 47 (a) | 48 (b) |
| 49 (c) | 50 (c) | 51 (a) |
| 52 (b) | 53 (d) | 54 (c) |
| 55 (c) | 56 (d) | 57 (a) |
| 58 (a) | 59 (d) | 60 (a) |
| 61 (c) | 62 (d) | 63 (c) |
| 64 (b) | 65 (b) | 66 (d) |
| 67 (a) | 68 (c) | 69 (c) |
| 70 (b) | 71 (c) | 72 (c) |
| 73 (a) | 74 (d) | 75 (c) |
| 76 (a) | 77 (d) | 78 (a) |
| 79 (a) | 80 (c) | 81 (c) |
| 82 (a) | 83 (b) | 84 (d) |
| 85 (a) | 86 (a) | 87 (b) |
| 88 (d) | 89 (a) | 90 (c) |
| 91 (d) | 92 (b) | 93 (b) |
| 94 (a) | 95 (b) | 96 (a) |
| 97 (c) | 98 (b) | 99 (b) |
| 100 (c) | | |

GEOGRAPHY

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 101 (a) | 102 (b) | 103 (a) |
| 104 (c) | 105 (b) | 106 (c) |
| 107 (d) | 108 (c) | 109 (d) |
| 110 (d) | 111 (c) | 112 (d) |
| 113 (c) | 114 (b) | 115 (d) |
| 116 (d) | 117 (a) | 118 (d) |
| 119 (d) | 120 (a) | 121 (d) |
| 122 (a) | 123 (a) | 124 (b) |
| 125 (b) | 126 (a) | 127 (d) |
| 128 (a) | 129 (b) | 130 (a) |
| 131 (c) | 132 (d) | 133 (c) |
| 134 (d) | | |

GENERAL INFORMATION

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 135 (a) | 136 (b) | 137 (d) |
| 138 (a) | 139 (b) | 140 (c) |
| 141 (a) | 142 (a) | |
| 143 (d) | 144 (d) | 145 (c) |
| 146 (c) | 147 (d) | 148 (c) |
| 149 (c) | 150 (c) | 151 (b) |
| 152 (b) | 153 (b) | 154 (a) |
| 155 (b) | 156 (a) | 157 (b) |
| 158 (d) | 159 (b) | 160 (d) |
| 161 (d) | 162 (d) | 163 (d) |
| 164 (c) | 165 (c) | 166 (b) |
| 167 (b) | 168 (a) | 169 (b) |
| 170 (b) | 171 (b) | 172 (d) |
| 173 (b) | 174 (b) | 175 (d) |
| 176 (c) | 177 (c) | 178 (c) |
| 179 (c) | 180 (a) | 181 (b) |
| 182 (a) | 183 (c) | 184 (b) |
| 185 (b) | 186 (a) | 187 (d) |
| 188 (a) | 189 (a) | 190 (a) |

RESUME OF THE EXAMINER'S GUESS QUESTIONS

What amount of computer software was exported by India in 1989-90?

\$ 100 million. The total production was Rs 9,210 crore which is only about one per cent of the global electronics production.

Where is the India's and Asia's first Industrial Academy located?

Hakimpet near Hyderabad. It was inaugurated on December 9, 1990. It will provide industrial security and management training to officers of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Police Organisations, army personnel and also to foreign countries.

Where is the world's tallest statue, chiselled out of a single rock, located?

Chuligiri near Barwani in Khar-gaon district of Madhya Pradesh.

The statue of Tirathankar Rishab Dev, popularly known as the *Bawan-gaja Bhagwan*, has 52 hands, is 84 ft high and is said to be over 1000 years old.

What amount of loan has been offered by Asian Development Bank (ADB) to Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) for developing its Gandhar field?

\$ 250 million—it will also help ONGC raise \$ 250 million from the international market to meet the local currency requirement.

This is the single biggest loan ever offered to India by ADB.

Name the distinguished IPS Officer who has been honoured with Ashok Chakra—the highest civilian award—posthumously.

Randhir Prasad Verma. He laid down his life fighting Punjab militants in Dhanbad in Bihar.

Name the first player from the Asian continent to qualify for the quarter-finals of the World Chess Championship.

Viswanathan Anand.

Name the largest warship ever to be built by India under "Project 15".

"Delhi".

On which day is the Coast Guard Day celebrated? When was Coast Guard formally constituted as an armed force?

February 2. The Coast Guard was formally constituted as an armed force on August 19, 1978. The service had, however, started operation on Feb 1, 1977, as part of the Indian Navy.

The idea of a Coast Guard in India was born out of the need to relieve the Navy of its non-military maritime task. Patterned on the US Coast Guard, its vast charter of duties is essentially to preserve and protect India's 2.8 million sq km Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). "We protect" is the Coast Guard motto.

Which country in the Indian sub-continent has the highest percentage of illiterates as per the World Bank Atlas, 1990?

Pakistan—70 per cent. Bangladesh's figure is 67 per cent and India's 63 per cent. Sri Lanka has only 13 per cent of its population as illiterate.

What is common between INS Khukri, INS Vibhuti, INS Shalki, INS Kuthar and INS Vipul?

INS *Khukri*, first of its class of Missile Corvettes, INS *Vibhuti*, first of its class of Fast Missile Vessels, INS *Shalki*, first indigenously built SSK Submarine, INS *Kuthar*, missile Corvette and INS *Vipul* fast missile vessel, have all been built by Mazagaon Docks, Bombay.

What is 'City of Joy'?

It is a film being made on the city of Calcutta. It has generated lot of controversy because it is believed that the story shows only the negative aspects of Calcutta thus creating a wrong impression about the city and its people.

Highlight the "quick estimates" of Central statistical organisation of national income and related aggregates for 1989-90.

The growth of National Income during 1989-90, the terminal year of the 7th Plan, fell sharply to 5.2 per cent as against 11.2 per cent rise

recorded in 1988-89.

The National Income (net national product at cost factor) stood at Rs 1,74,798 crore as against Rs 1,66,200 crore in 1988-89.

The average annual growth of the economy for the 7th Five-year Plan period (1985-90) as a whole works out to 5.6 per cent against the target of 5 per cent.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at constant prices (1980-81) is estimated at Rs 1,97,419 crore as against Rs 1,87,725 crore in 1988-89.

How many times the Lok Sabha has been dissolved ahead of elections?

Three times. Mrs Indira Gandhi had dissolved the fourth Lok Sabha in 1971, one year before its scheduled expiry, Mr Charan Singh in 1979, nearly three years before time and recently, in 1991, Mr Chandra Shekhar, nearly four years before time.

Name the tribe of Andaman and Nicobar islands which recently came out of its self-imposed isolation?

The Sentinelese. It was the last Indian community out of reach of scholars and administrators. The Sentinelese are one of the four hunting-gathering tribes in the Andaman islands belonging to the Negrito race. The others are the Great Andamanese, the Onge and Jarwa.

As per the provisional figures of the 1991 census what is the population of India?

849,930,861 on March 1, 1991. The number increased by 23.50 per cent in absolute terms from 683.33 million in 1981.

The sex ratio is 929 females per 1,000 males.

The literacy rate is 52.11 per cent. Males: 63.86 per cent and Females: 39.42 per cent.

The density of the population is 267 per sq km as against 216 at the 1981 census. Delhi tops in the density of population. According to 1991 census the density of population of

Delhi is 6319 per sq km Arunachal Pradesh has lowest density with 10 persons per sq km

India's population remains the second largest in the world China, with 1160 million leads the world The USSR and USA come next These four countries together account for nearly half the population of the globe India has about 16 per cent of the world's population

Name the author of the book *Rabbit at Rest*

John Updike The book has won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction

Who had presented the design of the national flag to Mahatma Gandhi on April 1, 1921?

Pengali Venkataiah, a freedom fighter from Andhra Pradesh

Name the author of the book *'The Power and the Glory'*.

Graham Greene, British novelist

Name the first pair of twins to play together in 114 years of Test Cricket.

Steve and Mark Waugh of Australia Both were born, minutes apart, on June 2, 1965 and have already played together in one-day internationals

What is VSAT?

Very Small Aperture Terminals or VSAT is used for voice and data communication with remote areas A VSAT can be installed in a remote area and can communicate with other areas through a satellite

How many people were eligible to vote for the 1991 Lok Sabha elections?

The electorate for the 1991 elections swelled to 514,126,380 as compared with 498 906,429 in 1989 -an increase of about 15 million voters

As in 1989 two States—Kerala and Manipur—have the distinction of having more women than men in the electorate

Uttar Pradesh has the largest electorate

Which State has been declared as India's first fully literate State?

Kerala The total literacy programme, named *Akshara Keralam*, was launched on February 4, 1990 About 17 lakh people were made literate with the gigantic efforts of the Kerala Sasharata Samithy, spon-

sored by the State government with financial assistance from the National Literacy Mission, UNESCO and through contributions from the public

At which place was the historic conference, to launch a Middle East Peace initiative, held on October 30, 1991?

Madrid, Spain It was for the first time that Israel and its Arab neighbours sat down for a face-to-face negotiations The twin goals of the conference were to achieve limited self-rule for the nearly two million Palestinians living in Israeli-occupied territories and to achieve permanent peace between Israel and the surrounding Arab States Diplomats from Israel, Egypt Syria, Lebanon and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation participated in the conference

Which country will host the 1993 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet (CHOGM)?

Cyprus The 1991 CHOGM was held at Harare Zimbabwe

Where is India's tallest TV tower being built?

Near Ramgarh village in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan The height of the tower will be 300 M At present the Delhi TV tower is the tallest in the country with a height of 235 M

Name the book, written by Alexandra Repley, which is the sequel to Margaret Mitchell's *'Gone with the Wind'*.

Scarlett

Recently the government permitted 100% foreign equity in high priority areas. What are the highlights of the scheme?

Non-resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) permitted to invest upto 100 per cent foreign equity in high priority industries including hotels, tourism related industries, shipping and hospitals

—The outflow on account of dividend payments is balanced by export earnings over a period of seven years from the commencement of production

—The proposed project should not be located within 25 km from the periphery of the standard urban area

limits of a city having a population of more than 10 lakh according to 1991 census

—The facility will be available for new investments including those for expansion and diversification of existing industrial undertakings These provisions will apply to investments in private/public limited companies as well as in partnership firms

In which State is the Tehri hydro-electric project being built?

Uttar Pradesh There has been a controversy, recently, regarding the safety of the dam as it is felt that the project is situated in a earthquake prone area

Where is the 1992 "earth summit" proposed to be held?

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil It will be attended by the heads of government from over 160 countries

In which State is Koel Karo hydro-electric project proposed to be built?

Bihar

What was the reason for the postponement of the 6th SAARC summit which was scheduled to be held from November 7, 1991 in Colombo, Sri Lanka?

The summit required the presence of the heads of State or government to secure unanimity which governs decisions taken by SAARC Since the King of Bhutan expressed his inability to attend, the summit had to be postponed

What does the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Bill seeks to provide?

The legislation seeks to maintain *status quo* of religious places as they existed on August 15, 1947

What is 'Operation Rhino'?

It is operation conducted by the Indian Army to flush out ULFA militants in Assam

What growth rate has been opted for the eighth five-year plan (1992-97)?

5.6 per cent This will involve a total outlay of Rs 7,92,000 crore Out of this the public sector outlay is pegged at Rs 3,42,000 crore Export growth rate is assumed at 13 per cent and import rate at 8 per cent per year.

Where is world's first white tiger safari located?

Nandan Kanan biological park near Bhubaneswar, Orissa

What are the highlights of the nuclear-arms cuts announced by President Bush of USA?

—Elimination of all ground-launched, short-range nuclear weapons

—Withdrawal of all tactical nuclear weapons including Tomahawk cruise missiles, from Submarines and ships

—Removal of all US strategic bombers from day-to-day alert status

—Withdrawal from alert of all intercontinental ballistic missiles under the yet-unratified START

—Abandoning of the controversial rail based system for the MX missiles

—Consolidation of the strategic forces of the navy and air force under one command

—Commitment to the B 52 bomber and Star Wars projects to continue

What are the highlights of the Supreme Court's judgement in the Bhopal Gas tragedy compensation case?

—\$470 million settlement by SC upheld

—Criminal prosecution of Car-bide officials and others allowed

—UCC, UCIL asked to set up 500-bed hospital for victims in 18 months. Free medical surveillance of victims

—Union Govt must pay premia from \$ 470 million settlement fund for insuring future victims for eight years

—Union Govt must make good any shortfall in settlement fund for compensating victims under the Bhopal Gas Leak Act, 1985

As per the report of the Congressional Research Service of USA which country was the biggest supplier of arms to India in 1990?

USSR Among the third world countries India ranked third after Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan to receive arms deliveries totalling \$ 1,760 million

Which Indian city tops the list of cities in terms of population in India?

Bombay Calcutta, which till the 1991 census was the most populated city is now ranked second

Bombay now stands sixth in the rating in the world's most populous cities, having a population of 12.6 million

Mexico city is the most populous city in the world with a population of 20.2 million, with Tokyo standing at number two (18 million)

Which day was celebrated as the *Sadbhavana Diwas* (Goodwill Day)?

August 20 the birthday of former Prime Minister of India, Mr Rajiv Gandhi

As per the 43rd round of national sample survey data 1987-88, how many persons in India were living below the poverty line?

237.7 million As per the 1990-91 annual report the percentage of persons living below poverty line has come down to 29.9 per cent in 1987-88 against 51.5 per cent in 1972-73

What is the meaning of the word Putsch?

A secretly plotted and suddenly executed attempt to overthrow a government

Name the first district outside Kerala to have achieved hundred per cent literacy.

Burdwan West Bengal

What was the total foreign exchange deposit held by non-resident Indians (NRIs) as on March 31, 1991?

Rs 20,727 crore

Name the American athlete who has broken the world record of 8.90 metres, set by Bob Beamon during the 1968 Mexico City Olympics.

Mike Powell He jumped 8.95 metres in the third world Track and Field championship held at Tokyo in August 1991

Name the three Baltic republics of USSR which have become independent countries.

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia

Name the two European countries which have been admitted as guest-members of Non-

Aligned movement.

Netherlands and Germany Besides this Mongolia has been admitted as 103rd member and Guatemala and Honduras as observers

Which country will hold the tenth summit of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) in 1992?

Indonesia

Which sea is just about the only sea in the world where the wood of sunken ships can remain preserved almost forever?

The Baltic Sea The reason for this is the low salinity and temperature of the sea that makes it an uncomfortable place for the wood-eating *teredo navalis*

From which date will the Eighth Plan begin?

April 1, 1992

Which States are involved in the Cauvery River water dispute?

Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry

What is Lifeline Express?

It is world's first hospital on rails The project will cover the entire country on the Indian Railways' vast network

As on March 29, 1991 what was the gross outstanding deposits and credit of all scheduled commercial banks of India?

Deposits were Rs 200,036 crore and credit was Rs 132,510 crore

The rate of growth in deposits was 15.8 per cent as against 17.6 per cent in the year ending March 1990. Bank credit registered a growth of 16.7 per cent as against 18.3 per cent in 1990

Who is the author of the classic poem *Gunga Deen*?

Rudyard Kipling

Where is India's first wave power plant located?

Vizhinjam fishing harbour near Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala

In the new industrial policy the government has delicensed all industries except for a few. Name the industries reserved for public sector.

Defence items, Mining of copper, lead, zinc, tin, sulphur, gold, diamonds, iron, manganese, chrome,

coal and lignite, Atomic energy Mineral oils, Railways, Minerals specified in the schedule to the Atomic energy (control of production and use) order, 1953

What is the present value of rupee measured as the reciprocal of the consumer price index for industrial workers on base 1960 = 100?

9 94 paise

Name the first-ever woman Chief Justice of a High Court.

Ms Justice Leila Seth, Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court

As per the 1990-91 annual report of the department of public enterprises, what net profit was earned by the 189 Central public enterprises?

Rs 2,730 27 crore against Rs 3,748 crore in 1989-90. The decline in net profit over previous year was 37.28 per cent

The net profit as a percentage of capital employed declined to 2.66 in 1990-91 from 4.62 in 1989-90

What was the inflation rate in 1990-91 as per the Economic Survey of India?

12.1 per cent

Name the book written by Mr M.J. Akbar which has been banned in Pakistan.

"Kashmir—Behind the Veil

Name the world's oldest company.

Stora, the Swedish forestry company. It recently announced it was quitting its original business—the 1000 year old copper mine at Falun has been shut

Which country emerged in 1991 as the largest recipient of World Bank aid?

India. India received two billion dollars aid in 1991. The total worldwide assistance of World Bank was 22.7 billion dollars

What are the main highlights of the new trade policy of the Government of India?

Cash Compensatory Scheme (CCS) suspended

—Replenishment Licensing Scheme (REP) to become the principal instrument for export-related imports. It will be called Exim Scrip

and can be freely traded

—All exports to have a uniform REP rate of 30 per cent of the Freight On Board (FOB) value

—All supplementary licences stand abolished except in the case of the small-scale sector and for producers of life-saving drugs/equipment

—Financial institutes would be allowed to trade in Exim Scrips

What is India's external debt after the devaluation of rupee in first week of July, 1991?

Rs 162,000 crore. As a proportion of national income it has risen from 38 per cent to 47 per cent

Name the bank whose operations have been shut down by World Central Banks for alleged widespread fraud and money laundering.

Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). The bank was founded in 1972, with the help of Gulf money, by prominent Pakistani banker Agha Hasan Abedi. The present majority share holder is Zaid Bin Sultan al-Nahayan, ruler of Abu Dhabi

Who holds the distinction of being world's longest serving Prime Minister?

Former Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Lee Kuan Yew. He also had the distinction of being the world's youngest Prime Minister when he assumed charge in April 1959 at the age of 36. He remained Prime Minister of Singapore for 31 years

By what name is the scroll painting known in Bengal?

Patachitra. It is the oldest folk heritage of Bengal

Which country has the world's oldest hereditary monarchy?

Japan. On November 12, 1990, Emperor Akihito became the first of a legendary 2,600-year old line of emperors to be enthroned as a State symbol rather than a living god

What is Ghanashyam?

It is first music theatre production of celebrated sitarist, Pandit Ravi Shankar. It was first unveiled in 1989 in Birmingham, UK. Since then it has dazzled the West by its style, form and depth. It began its Indian

appearance on December 23, 1990

Which country has the world's highest per capita Gross National Product?

Switzerland (\$28,213) followed by Japan (\$23,382) and USA (\$19,813)

India's per capita GNP is \$ 326

What was India's trade deficit during 1990-91?

Rs 10,643 54 crore as compared to Rs 7,730 41 crore during 1989-90 thereby recording an increase of 37.7 per cent in rupee terms and 27.8 per cent in US Dollar terms

Exports during the period amounted to Rs 32,527 28 crore as compared to Rs 27,681 47 crore during 1989-90. This implies an export growth rate of 17.5 per cent in rupee terms and 9 per cent in dollar terms

The imports during 1990-91 totalled Rs 43,170 82 crore as compared to Rs 35,411 88 crore during 1989-90. Imports excluding oil amounted Rs 32,465 21 crore during 1990-91. The non-oil imports showed an increase of 11.1 per cent in rupee terms and 3.1 per cent in dollar terms

As per the annual survey of Geneva-based Corporate Resources Group which is the most expensive city in the world?

Tokyo and Osaka were rated the world's most expensive cities with 167 and 151 points respectively. The rating was based on an index which places New York on a base level of 100 points

Name the place to be the highest polling station of India during the elections to the 10th Lok Sabha in 1991.

Kuntri, situated at the altitude of 13,500 feet above sea level in the hill region of Uttar Pradesh

What is "Blue Book"?

Blue Book, the bible of the security agencies, provides security and protocol guidelines regarding the President and the Prime Minister of India

Who is to head the Judicial Commission appointed to inquire into the assassination of Mr Rajiv Gandhi?

Justice J S Verma.

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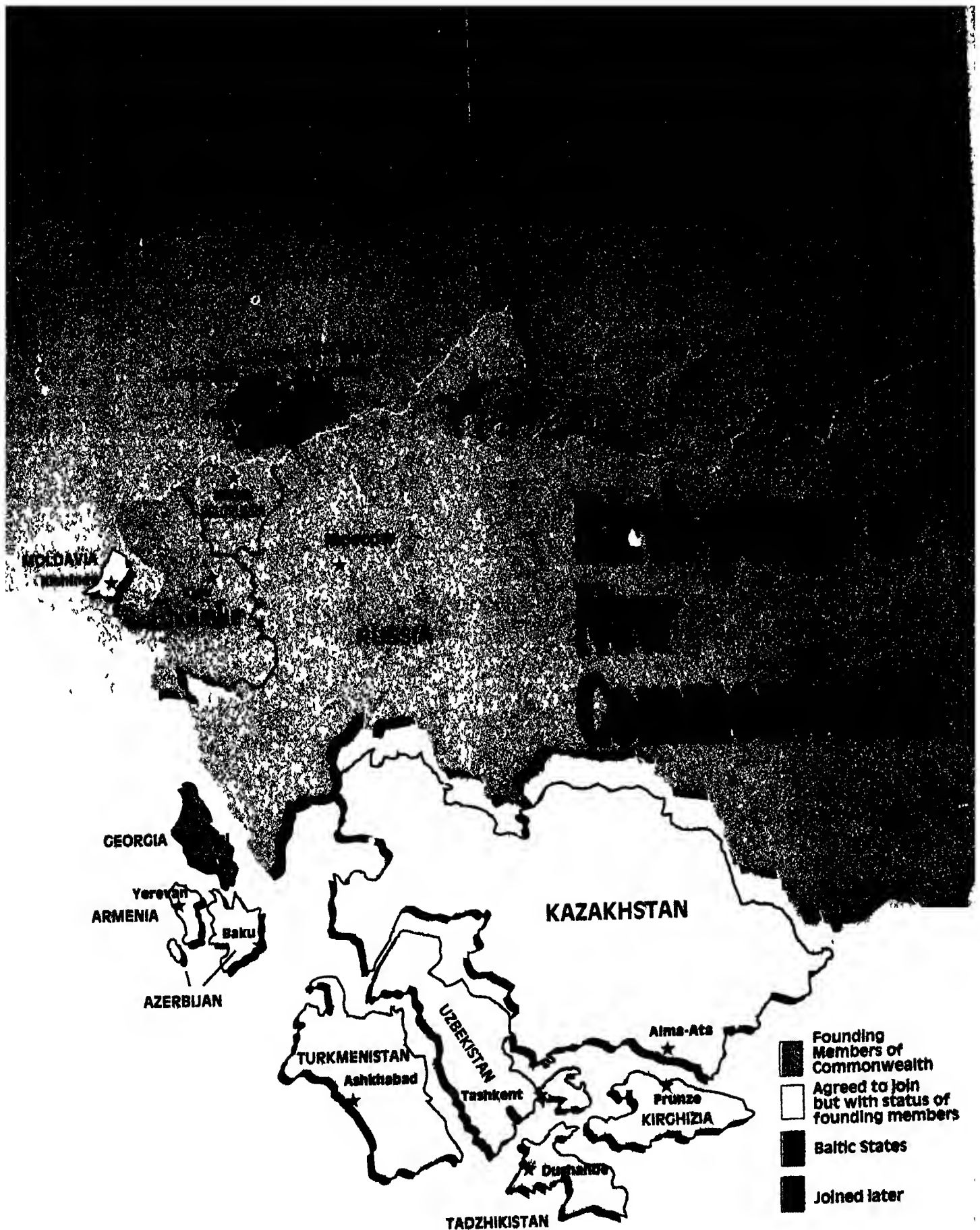
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Plus Point for Indian Youth

Dear Reader,

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READERS' FORUM

INDIA AND CHINA

Apropos of your feature "India and China: New Perspectives" (Feb '92), Tibet is an important problem between India and China; so it is the duty of New Delhi to gently offer friendly advice to Beijing to make a positive approach towards the Tibetan people, particularly towards the Dalai Lama. What the Chinese Government has to understand is that the more adamant it is in respect of the Dalai Lama and his followers, the more difficult it would be for it to maintain stability and peace in Tibet.

The Chinese Prime Minister displayed pragmatism in making a public statement in New Delhi that his Government would be prepared to talk to the Dalai Lama on all Tibetan affairs except the demand for independence. It would be right and proper in the circumstances for New Delhi to offer its good offices for a rapprochement between the Dalai Lama and the Chinese Government. Meanwhile, we should extend our hospitality to the Dalai Lama and friendly Tibetans taking shelter in our country.

Patna

J K Verma

FOCUS ON W. ASIA

Apropos of your Cover Story "Focus on West Asian Tangle" (Jan '92 issue), peace-loving countries are asking the question: "What would be the future of world peace?" The Cold War has ended. But one of the Big Powers has been fragmented to such an extent that it is unlikely to return to its earlier shape. The NAM countries heaved a sigh of relief when the Cold War was over, but with the U.S.A. dominating the world, they are afraid of the consequences if they continue to remain non-aligned.

At this critical juncture we (the peace-loving NAM countries) should stick to our beliefs and help avert disastrous conflicts such as the Gulf War.

C/o 56 APO

C C Biswas

It is a pity that Mr Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO, is not receiving due regard from Israel and the Arab countries (merely for supporting Iraq in the Gulf War). To find a solution of the Palestine problem, Israel and the Arab countries must give the appropriate place to Mr Arafat. World peace depends on a satisfactory solution of the Palestine problem.

Jammu

Shahab Atroze

You have rightly stated in your

Cover Feature that "the West Asian imbroglio is multi-faceted." Palestine is at the heart of the problem. Israel will doubtless use the current peace process to deal separately with the Arab States and negotiate a final settlement of their territories in its occupation.

Having regard to the experience of four wars with Israel (of 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973) in which Israel occupied more and more Arab territories, the Arab States may have to pay a price for peace. It is in the long-term interest of Israel to offer incentives (occupied land) for peace rather than demand a price. The success of the process will depend equally on Washington's willingness to make a firm even-handed approach. Peace in the Middle East is possible if no country seeks victory over others. All must strive for a "shared victory".

Bhubaneswar

Durga Madhab Dash

The Bush Administration should take the initiative and persuade Israel to vacate the occupied Arab land—West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights. The international community, particularly the Western world, should declare the whole of West Asia as a peace zone and recognise the existence of an independent Palestine State.

Puri

Dharmandru Pattanaik

STATE OF DESPERATION

Considering the disgraceful incidents of violence, destruction and anarchy in the USSR, your editorial "A State of Desperation" (Jan '92 issue) was very timely. Mr Gorbachov attempted a major revolution through Perestroika and Glasnost, the collapse of the Red Giant is one of the greatest events of this century.

Destruction of an empire is not the result of any single incident but the fact is that the seeds of the catastrophic happenings were sown by Stalin and his dictator successors, years ago. The dictatorship of the monolithic Communist Party left no room for the growth of opposition. It was a highly centralised system with complete absence of private enterprise, individual initiative and democratic decentralization.

In these circumstances Mr Gorbachov turned a dark page of history. He will certainly be remembered as one who sought to deliver the Soviet people from the darkness of communism out into the sunshine of freedom. The whole of Eastern Europe benefited from the winds of change.

I do not think that it is a state of desperation. A new prosperous era may soon begin in that country.

Jamalpur

Binay Kumar Mishra

TERRORISM

Your Special Feature-I truly reflects all sides of terrorism and kidnappings.

Until a few months ago these evils were concentrated in certain States. But they have gradually raised their ugly head almost all over the country. The people are in a State of uncertainty and confusion while travelling and leading their normal life. The extremists resort to kidnappings for different purposes—extortion of money, release of comrades, etc.

The Government has to go deep into the problems and it must take well-considered, fruitful steps to bring the misguided militants back into the national mainstream.

Hooghly (WB)

Sanjoy Chanda

BANKING REFORMS

Many of the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee for improvement of the banking service deserve to be accepted. However, it is difficult to agree with some of them.

The committee favours liberalisation of permission for foreign banks to open more branches. Foreign banks have already established their offices in practically all metropolitan cities. Is it necessary to permit them to open more branches? Are Indian banks, which have over 100 years experience in modern banking, incapable of providing better banking service? The "Swadeshi" spirit, which was so strong during the days of the freedom struggle, is gradually getting eroded. When there is so much unemployment among the educated, is it necessary to step up computerisation?

Kurnool

P Sivaram Prasad

"C.M." FEATURES

Thank you for the encouraging and educative feature "Positive attitude is the secret of success" (Jan '92 issue). It has shown me the way to proceed towards success. Now I fully believe that by perseverance and iron-determination one can reach the desired goal of life.

The "CM" is the key to open the lock of success in the sphere of competitions.

Chiusurali

Nandita Bhattacharya

I have been a regular reader of this magazine since 1989. Your features "Improve Your Word Power" and "English Language" have helped me considerably to improve my knowledge of the language. These features are very helpful to those appearing in various competitive examinations.

Sultaipur

Harpreet Kaur

May be you have recently appeared in any competitive examination.

We shall be grateful if you could send us the question papers. The original papers will be returned along with the postage spent by you.

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Point, Counter-point

IN recent months, Amnesty International and other human rights organisations in this country and elsewhere have been making a series of allegations about violations of human rights in India, Pakistan and other countries. So far as India is concerned, most of these allegations have been found to be baseless and stem from exaggerated, biased reports spread by politically interested parties. In view of the fact that such allegations continue to be made and tend to create a wrong impression about the efficacy and intentions of the administration in this country, the Government of India has decided to establish a human rights commission of its own so that a clear, balanced picture may be presented in this regard.

Union Home Minister S.B. Chavan has stressed that India has nothing to hide; no wrongdoing by security personnel would be allowed to go unpunished, provided there was evidence to prove the wrongdoing. Obviously, unsubstantiated and vague allegations would not be pursued.

Taking full note of the allegations made by Amnesty International, Asia Watch and other human rights organisations about the happenings in Kashmir and Punjab in particular, the Union Home Ministry has compiled considerable data to contradict the Amnesty International's charges. The data show that action was taken against erring personnel found guilty, and that courts of enquiry were in progress to ascertain the truth in other cases. Similarly, the other allegations have been countered.

Impartial people can easily see through the international organisations' misleading reports. The Union Government has sent the facts to its diplomatic missions abroad so that the critics' allegations of violation of basic human rights can be convincingly answered with true figures. The Union Government has gone further. A special cell has been set up in the Home Ministry under the charge of a senior official to facilitate speedy flow of information and prompt remedial action. Similar cells are proposed to be set up in J & K, Punjab and some other

sensitive States in order that the facts may be collected speedily and the needful done. Delay in this matter and in presenting the truth does much harm. The credibility of the administration is at stake.

A vigilant journalist complained the other day that Asia Watch, in its adverse comments on the state of affairs in India in regard to human rights, does not mention the killings of members of minority communities and the brutalities perpetrated against them by terrorists in Punjab and Kashmir. Nor does Asia Watch adequately report the action taken by the Government against erring members of the security forces.

Asia Watch spokesmen allege that the Union Government did not respond to the communications sent by this organisation. But it is difficult to believe that the Government did not take any action against security and other personnel who are really guilty of committing excesses during the performance of their duty. Nor is it correct to say that the Government of India launched a campaign to acquit members of the security forces and discredit those who brought up such charges. It is also hard to believe the allegation that some journalists who wanted to be associated with impartial probes received a rebuff. It is doubtful whether the findings of the Press Council support the allegations of Amnesty International and Asia Watch.

Some international organisations, including the UN Human Rights Committee, have been carried away by hasty impressions and prejudiced reports. For instance, the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, which had become necessary in view of the incidents indicating the misuse of position and powers by some persons, has been criticised as violating international human rights laws. It must not be forgotten that India greatly values its standing as a leading member of the international community; it goes out of its way to preserve human rights. But such is the situation created by militants that special laws have to be enacted to ensure peace. Similar action has been taken by some other countries too.

Pakistan's 15 N-bombs

Pakistan's advanced nuclear programme has been much in the news in recent weeks. Western experts have confirmed that Pakistan has a stockpile of 15 or so nuclear weapons. There are caution estimates of the precise number but there is no doubt now that Pakistan has acquired the nuclear capabilities. Does this disclosure call for matching response from India?

THE US administration, according to Senator Larry Pressler is now convinced that Pakistan possesses nuclear weapons. Reliable sources also state that Islamabad has acquired nuclear capabilities with the help of stolen European technology and Chinese assistance. After operating a plant to enrich uranium since 1986 and with extensive help from the Chinese in warhead design, Pakistan has produced the bomb which it can utilise. The obvious target in case the bomb is actually put to use would be India.

Western observers believe that Senator Pressler's public announcement in Islamabad on January 14, 1992, that Pakistan was in possession of nuclear weapons marks the failure of Congressional and Presidential attempts to halt Pakistan's nuclear programme. It may be recalled that American conditions for resumption of aid suspended in October 1990, have remained the same. Pakistan must stop producing highly enriched uranium, refrain from making uranium metal and stop preparing or holding uranium components for a nuclear device.

On January 13 this year Pakistan turned down suggestions by Washington to roll back its weapon-oriented nuclear programme and declined to sign unilaterally the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Islamabad's position was conveyed to Mr Pressler during his meet-

ings with the Federal Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz, Minister for Foreign Affairs Siddique Khan Kanju and the Senate Chairman Wassam Sajjad. Mr Pressler had urged Pakistan to take over steps to dismantle its nuclear weapons capability. The Bush administration would be in a position to issue the necessary certification under the Pressler Amendment only after Islamabad took such a measure. American economic and military assistance of over 560 million dollars was suspended on the suspicion, confirmed by various sources, that Pakistan was going ahead with the process of acquiring a nuclear device. Pakistan has however maintained that its nuclear programme is only for peaceful purposes. It is learnt that the US Congress intends to pass some more amendments to their regulations to enhance US relations with such countries as are not only reducing nuclear weapons but also cutting down their conventional weapons.

It is not surprising that Mr Pressler's name has become anathema to the Pakistanis because it is associated with the amendment under which the US Government suspended all aid to Pakistan. Another reason for this development is Mr Pressler's statement during his recent Delhi visit that India did not possess nuclear weapons and was not making any preparations for making such weapons. Mr Pressler's name further angered the Pakistanis because he went out of his way to criticise Pakistan's involvement in secessionist and terrorist activities in Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab.

"Islamic Bomb": According to well-informed sources, which hardly anyone has so far questioned, there is danger of Pakistan joining the nuclear armed Islamic confederation. As Mr L K Advani, opposition leader in India's Parliament, said (during his recent visit to Washington at the

invitation of the Carnegie Endowment for Peace), the very idea of Pakistan possessing an "Islamic bomb" was dangerous not only for the Indian sub continent but also for the whole world. Mr Pressler also cautioned against the emerging Confederation of Islamic States contiguous to India with their nuclear potential. It needs to be noted that Mr Pressler made no mention of China which has been the major source of nuclear assistance to Pakistan. A rational interpretation of this omission is that Washington now trusts India more than it trusts Pakistan in respect of the new threat from Islamic fundamentalism which Washington views as a growing danger. The new danger must be tackled in a subtle manner without coming out openly against it. Apparently, Washington believes that the new Islamic confederation and its bomb potentialities would be matters of serious concern to New Delhi. The possible onslaught of the Islamic entity is now worrying Washington. Perhaps the danger is remote, or at any rate, not very serious at the moment, but the USA probably wants to act in time before the danger acquires disconcerting dimensions. American sources believe that a bloc of fundamentalist Muslim States would soon possess an "Islamic bomb". Influential Congressmen have said that it would be a matter of much concern to the US administration if two or three countries in the newly emerging belt of Islamic fundamentalist States had nuclear weapons.

In this connection it would be relevant to recall the recent observation made by Mr Shireen Mazari, head of the Department of Strategic Studies at Quaid-e-Azam University that the faction within the army that espouses a tough stance against Washington has grown in strength since the suspension of US aid. "They

are more convinced than ever before that the USA cannot be trusted and that the nuclear option is the only guarantee of Pakistan's security", Mr Mazari said.

This is not the first time that the world has heard talk of an Islamic bomb. Some years ago, there were persistent reports that Pakistan was receiving substantial funds for all-out research and other activity to develop a nuclear bomb. At that time the Saudi Arabia was believed to be the principal donor for the purpose and the aim was to develop a nuclear bomb which could be used to counter the growing threat from Israel which was reported to have developed a bomb already. What the aim of the Islamic bloc is has not been clarified so far. But traditional hostilities have not been forgotten.

Relations with U.S.: It is not surprising that newspapers and the other media in Islamabad featured the report that the Pakistan President and the Prime Minister had declined to meet Mr Pressler. Such calls on top dignitaries are customary but official sources explained, rather unconvincingly, that meeting with these leaders had not been arranged nor were they scheduled.

Political observers hold the view that Pakistan's relations with the USA had touched a low ebb in the wake of the US Senator's visit. As for the evidence reportedly shown by Indian authorities, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Kanju contended that the charges were "wild and baseless" and the allegations of Pakistan's involvement in terrorist and militant activity "lacked proof, logic and reason". To a query on the emergence of the fundamentalist Islamic confederation with a nuclear capability which could pose a threat to India, the Pakistani official maintained that Islamabad was pursuing a peaceful nuclear policy and such apprehensions were totally baseless.

Asked if the US policy was not discriminatory against Pakistan because it ignored the fact that India had exploded a nuclear device in 1974, Mr Pressler pointed out that in the early 1980s US technical experts had reported that India had abandoned its nuclear programme while

Pakistan was going ahead with it. "This was the assessment of the technical experts, not mine", Mr Pressler added. He asserted that the USA wanted to be a friend of both India and Pakistan.

Mr Pressler has given a clean chit to India while accusing Pakistan of going full speed ahead with its nuclear programme. However, the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director, Mr Robert Gates, informed the Senate sub-committee on non-proliferation on January 16 this year that both India and Pakistan have nuclear weapon and ballistic missile programmes. They may not have assembled the weapons for safety reasons but they have all the parts for a nuclear weapon and also the means to deliver them. "We have no reasons to believe that either India or Pakistan maintained, assembled or deployed nuclear bombs. But such weapons could be assembled quickly, and both countries have combat aircraft that could be modified to deliver them in a crisis."

In South Asia, according to him, the arms race between India and Pakistan is a major concern. Not only do both countries have nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles programmes, they have recently pursued chemical weapons as well. These programmes are particularly worrisome because of constant tension and conflict in Kashmir. Mr Gates expressed anxiety over what he described as the Soviet Union's brain drain to countries like India. He had also heard rumours that Pakistan was aiding Iran in nuclear matters but the CIA had not independently verified these reports.

India's Policy: The CIA Director's assessment is however incorrect. India certainly does not possess a nuclear bomb, though it has the capability of making such a weapon, while Pakistan has presumably a bomb or bombs in its basement. Secondly, neither country (not India at any rate) possesses nor, so far as is known, seeks to possess such weapons. In fact, India has repeatedly opposed the manufacture and deployment of chemical weapons.

Mr Advani has urged the Government of India and also the people to reconsider the policy on

nuclear weapons. At a time when China is a full-fledged nuclear power and Pakistan, India's other neighbour, has crossed the nuclear threshold, how can New Delhi close its nuclear options? the BJP leader asked. The BJP, he added, would not mind reconsidering its nuclear stand at some later stage when the situation had improved in India's neighbourhood.

India is fully aware of the growing nuclear threat facing the nation. Pakistan's nuclear bomb would be used against India, especially now that the Afghanistan dispute is virtually dead or at any rate in cold storage. India's frequently reiterated policy is that nuclear energy and capability, developed by Indian scientists on their own, without hypocrisy or deception, is strictly for peaceful purposes. With the exception of a small minority, most people of this country have accepted this policy. The plea for going nuclear is not very frequently heard.

For the first time the annual report of India's Defence Ministry (1984-85) contained a reference, apparently designed to prompt a national debate on the bomb issue, to the threat posed to India by the all-out nuclear drive next door. The Central Government sought Parliament's opinion on what it should do to meet the explosive situation.

The pronouncements made by India's Prime Minister from time to time show that the policy on the bomb issue has undergone a slight change. Lately, the stand has been that the country may have to reconsider its commitment not to manufacture nuclear weapons if the circumstances warrant a shift. There is a widespread feeling that since there is no likelihood of an effective Indo-Pakistan agreement on nuclear weapons, it is time for this country to review its policy of self-denial and match Pakistan's acquisitions.

But there is the other side of the question. If India were to opt for bomb, it would give an impetus to a potentially disastrous arms race and many countries, the Western ones as well as the Middle East, would put the blame on India.

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The Waters of Discord

Inter-State disputes over the distribution of river waters have become common in this country. The latest demand in the series is that for sharing of Yamuna waters, the new claimant being Punjab which has added a new dimension to the issue by staking the State's claim to a part of Yamuna Waters allocated to Haryana.

MOST of India's big rivers flow through several States. The country's rivers carry about 1 683,000 million cubic metres of water every year. The main rivers of the Himalayan system, both snow fed and rain-fed are the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra, all of them flowing throughout the year. The Indus has five tributaries—Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. It runs through the Himalayas, then flows into Sindh and finally into the Arabian Sea. The major rivers of the Deccan system are Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery, Mahanadi, Damodar, Sharavati, Periyar, Narmada and Tapi. Being all rain-fed, many of them are reduced to rivulets during the summer. Of these the Narmada and Cauvery have been much in the news because of the inter State disputes over the respective shares of the States through which the rivers run.

The affected States require the river waters not only for agriculture but also for locating hydro electric projects. An ironical aspect of the water sharing problem is that a considerable part of the waters is still being allowed to go waste while the riparian States continue their disputes over their shares of the precious, usable water. The disputes and the apparently endless haggling has, in a couple of cases reached the courts, tribunals and commissions.

This implicit parochial posture is the very antithesis of national and integrated development of each

region and of course of the country. Some years ago, the IAO and the UNDP took up a survey of India's water resources and made a proposal of much importance to the region. Among the suggestions these agencies offered was that the utilisation of the country's water resources be made a central subject, the various river systems be linked to facilitate the fullest possible use of the immense vital national asset for the benefit of the entire nation. India's then Water Resources Minister addressing a meeting of the State Irrigation Ministers in the mid eighties, urged integration of the river basins. Earlier, in 1980, the Union Ministry of Agriculture presented a plan according to which 75 per cent of the total cultivable land in the country was to be brought under irrigation in a decade (by 1990). Little has been heard about implementation of this commendable scheme.

It is obvious that the aim was eminently desirable and implementation of the proposal would greatly reduce inter State tensions over the sharing of river waters. The project would also help much in reducing floods and drought. Nor does the world as a whole know much about the results of the UN plan for observing the 1980s as a 'Decade of Water'. The aim was to ensure the supply of drinking water to all areas in the developing world. But we do know that the Central Government even now has not been able to provide potable water to all the villages in the country.

Higher demands: The focus of this article, however, is on inter-State water disputes, the demand for a higher share by each State being for water urgently needed for irrigation purposes. Some of the affected States have even warned that unless they were given adequate supply of water, their irrigated areas would be

reduced to deserts of wasteland. In some cases the claims for a share of river water are exaggerated and the plea is politically motivated. In fact the survival of certain State governments hinges upon their ensuring a fair share of river waters. Perhaps the most controversial issue of river water sharing concerns the Cauvery which runs through Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry. The dispute over Cauvery waters question was referred to a Tribunal and ultimately had to be taken to the Supreme Court. Karnataka declined to accept the verdict of the Tribunal while Tamil Nadu insisted that the Tribunal verdict be implemented without further delay. The Karnataka Government issued an ordinance to counter in effect the Tribunal decision. The Central Government after considerable pressure from Tamil Nadu, notified the verdict in the gazette thus making it fully legal. This led to considerable resentment in Karnataka and caused much violence in which the Tamils were the main victims. Thousands of people took refuge in Tamil Nadu and many lives were lost in the disturbances. The Centre had to send para-military forces to Karnataka to quell the rioting. Initially, Karnataka refused to accept the Prime Minister's offer to settle the dispute through negotiations. By the end of December, 1991, the number of refugees was stated to have risen to 70,000. Many of them have since returned to their homes.

The negotiations between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have continued over two or three decades. Even a tentative agreement reached some 16 years ago between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu was repudiated. The aggrieved farmers of Tamil Nadu allege that the supply of water to their fields has been adversely affected by the construction of

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dams on the Cauvery and its tributaries in Karnataka territory

Countless people agree that water disputes cannot be resolved by judicial decisions and that such issues should be resolved by negotiations and mutual agreements for which third-party interventions were often needed. But passions run high in many inter-State disputes and the prospects of speedy settlements have receded in recent years.

Constitutional provision: Foreseeing inter-State disputes on river waters, the Indian Constitution framers laid down (Article 262) as follows: (1) Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution or control of the waters of or in any inter-State river or river valley. (2) Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, Parliament may by law provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court shall exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint as is referred to in clause (1).

This Article has not, however, ensured the settlement of river water disputes. Nor, unfortunately, has the Inter-State Council, set up under Article 263 of the Constitution, facilitated the settlement of inter-State dispute over river waters or other matters, so far. It is also a pity that regional emotions have been aroused with regard to river waters of the Krishna and Tungabhadra. Objection was taken in certain quarters to the Prime Minister's advice to the Andhra Pradesh Government to expedite the completion of the Telegu-Ganga Project shortly after the Cauvery interim order was published in the official gazette. Was it designed to fan regional emotions in both Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh?

Adjudication is obviously reduced to a futile exercise if the verdicts by tribunals and courts are not fully implemented. The outstanding case of successful adjudication by an external agency is of the dispute between India and Pakistan over the sharing of the waters of the Indus which was settled through the mediation of the World Court. How-

ever, the India-Bangladesh dispute over the Farakka Barrage remains unresolved despite a series of discussions spread over several years. The waters of the Ganga are at present being shared by the two countries on the basis of an ad hoc arrangement.

There is no denying that unless all the inter-State disputes within the country are settled, tensions and disturbances will continue and all talk of national unity and integration becomes meaningless in such a context.

The disputes between UP and Bihar, and between UP and Madhya Pradesh were not major ones and were amicably resolved. It seemed that the dispute over the Narmada among Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and also Rajasthan to some extent, had been settled and work on the dam projects had begun. But the intervention of the ecology votaries and the agitation by the people who would be rendered homeless because of the dam construction, led by Baba Amte, created complications. In recent months not much has been heard of Baba Amte's agitation. Presumably the agitation has ceased to pose a major challenge or cause a major upheaval, though the issue does come up now and then directly or indirectly.

Punjab Disputes: There is also the Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal project designed to provide a share in the Ravi-Beas waters to flow into Haryana. The issue formed a part of the Rajiv Gandhi-Sant Longowal accord which has never been implemented in full. For political reasons, the construction of the project in Punjab territory has been thwarted. The Haryana part of the canal has already been completed.

On January 20, 1992, the Punjab Governor (in the absence of a ministry and the legislature) introduced a new dimension to the inter-State dispute on river waters by staking the State's claim to a part of Yamuna waters allocated to Haryana. He claimed that Punjab was entitled to a share of 1.48 million acre feet (MAF) of the Yamuna waters on the basis of the 60:40 ratio out of the 2.46 MAF of the unutilised surplus waters. The

Governor suggested that Punjab's share of the Yamuna waters be offset against the 3.8 MAF of Ravi-Beas waters allocated to Haryana. On the basis of this allotment Haryana has been insisting on speedy completion of the SYL canal. For the first time, Punjab has staked its claim to the Yamuna waters on the river basin principle. The Governor took objection to the Centre not inviting Punjab to a meeting convened in January, 1992, by the Centre on the distribution of Yamuna waters. The participants in the meeting were Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, UP and Himachal Pradesh. The issue is likely to be referred to a tribunal whose terms of reference are to be laid down by the Union Government. The Governor's assertion was that Punjab is a major claimant to the river waters of Punjab before the State was reorganised.

Disputes over river waters are not common in other countries, wherever they do occur, solutions are found without much delay—except in rare cases. But despite all the stress on national unity in India, inter-State disputes over land and water persist even after the commissions and tribunals have given awards in favour of one party or the other. This indicates the persistence of narrow

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Policy Package for Reforming Financial Sector

Has experimentation with nationalised banking flopped? What financial system reforms are called for in the context of the sweeping changes being introduced in the industrial and trade sectors of the Indian economy to salvage the country from the deepening economic crisis? These are serious questions which might raise a national debate against the background of the recently-released Narasimham committee report on banks. This feature is devoted to the discussion of this proposition.

I. Why Reform Banks

TOWARDS the end of the sixties, India embarked upon nationalisation of select private banks with a view "to control the heights of the economy and to meet progressively and serve the needs of development of the economy in conformity with the national policy and objectives".

This marked the beginning of major structural changes in the Indian banking system. The scope and coverage of the public sector banking has considerably widened since then. The 9-member committee on the financial system of India set up in August 1991 under the chairmanship of Mr M. Narasimham (whose report has been tabled in the Parliament on December 17, 1991) has applauded the "commendable progress made by the Indian banking and financial system in extending its geographical spread and functional reach".

Despite the remarkable progress, it has been a traumatic experience as the committee has diagnosed most of the public sector banks as "bankrupt". Serious weaknesses as reflected in a decline in productivity, profitability and efficiency have emerged in the financial system. The Narasimham panel has made a number of recommendations to initiate

sweeping changes in the functioning of the public sector banks as also the development financial institutions.

The proposed reforms are needed not only to restore health of the financial sector but also to make them an integral part of the macro-economic adjustment programme recently launched by the new regime. The highlights of the remedial measures recommended by the panel are listed below.

II. Major Recommendations

(1) **Directed investment:** The Narasimham report points out that two factors for the deterioration in the performance of banks and financial institutions are: (a) directed investment; and (b) directed credit programmes.

In regard to the directed investment, it is suggested by the committee that the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) should not be deployed as an instrument for funding the public sector enterprises. To achieve the targeted reduction in fiscal deficit to 6.5 per cent of gross domestic product in 1991-92 for macro-economic stability, the panel recommends phased reduction of SLR from 38.5 per cent (average) to 25 per cent over a five-year period. Also, the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) at 25 per cent (including 10 per cent incremental CRR from May 4 last) should be progressively brought down from its present level.

(2) **Priority sector:** The directed credit programmes like the soft loans for the priority sector has also contributed to the fall in efficiency, productivity and profitability of banks, although such programmes have admittedly played a useful purpose. The committee, therefore, suggests that the priority sector should be re-defined and the credit target

fixed at 10 per cent of the aggregate credit as against the existing floor limit of 40 per cent of aggregate advances. In the revised target group, the medium and large farmers and the larger among the small industries, including transport operators etc would be excluded. With the proposed limitation of the directed investment, the fiscal deficit would decline.

(3) **Interest rate de-regulation:** The committee prefers de-regulation of the interest rates, although for the present the interest rates on bank deposits may continue to be regulated. It may be pointed out that de-regulation of interest rates can only follow success in fiscal deficit.

Meanwhile, the concessional interest rates may be phased out. Even the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) should have the interest rate structure in line with that of the commercial banks in order to improve the viability of their operations. It may be stated that the RRBs are proposed to do 'universal' banking like the commercial banks.

(4) **Re-structuring banks:** The committee recommends re-structure of the banks to evolve a four-tier pattern comprising (a) 3 or 4 large banks which could become international in character, including the State Bank of India; (b) 8 to 10 national banks with a network of branches throughout the country, (c) Local or region-specific banks; and (d) Rural banks (including RRBs) whose operations should be confined to the rural areas for financing agriculture and allied activities but they may be allowed to do all types of banking business.

(5) **Growth of banks:** The report suggests far-reaching policy measures for the growth and diversification of the banking industry.

These include a ban on further bank nationalisation to help more dynamic private banks to grow; non-discriminatory treatment between the private and the public sector banks; free entry (exit?) to new private banks; abolition of licensing for branch banking; establishment of branch offices or subsidiaries of foreign banks which should be treated as the domestic banks are.

(6) **Computerisation:** On the most controversial question of computer-use in the banking services, the committee maintains that "computerisation should be recognised as an indispensable tool for improvement in customer service, the institution and operation of better control systems, greater efficiency in information technology and the betterment of the work environment.

(7) **Staff Recruitment:** The panel is opposed to centralised system of recruitment of officers or recruitment through Banking Service Recruitment Boards and suggests that individual banks should be free to recruit. The committee is critical of politicisation of appointments made in the higher echelons of banks and observes that professionalism and integrity should be prime considerations for such appointments. De-politicisation of appointments is, thus, of essence, for improvement of performance of banks.

(8) **Administrative reform:** Independence and autonomy in administrative affairs of banks should form the guiding features of the over-regulated and over-administered banking system in the country. The committee holds the view that the duality of control over the banking system should end and that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) should be the primary agency for the regulation of the banking system. The implication of this is that the banking division of the ministry of finance should be wound up. For the supervisory function over the banks, the committee suggests a separate quasi-autonomous body under the aegis of the RBI.

(9) **Liberalised capital market:** The committee votes against the

present restrictions on capital market operations and strongly favours substantial and speedy liberalisation of the capital market by opening it up to foreign portfolio investment.

It may be said in conclusion that the Narasimham committee recommendations are in conformity with the macro-economic adjustment policies announced during the second half of the year 1991. Autonomy, integrity, liberalisation and flexibility of banking are key words of the committee report. De-regulation of the financial sector would enable it to forge closer links with the global financial markets and give India a competitive edge to exploit the international opportunities for the Indian trade, industry and finance.

III. Comments

IN their dissenting notes, Prof Mrinal Datta Chaudhuri and Prof Manu Shroff maintain that the recommendations of the Narasimham committee do not go far enough in converting the financial sector from a plaything of politics to a dynamic, efficient entity. To rectify this weakness, the committee has emphasized de-politicisation of staffing the banks. The recommendation for distancing the State from the banks and financial institutions is intended to advance the process of liberalisation.

The directed investment and the directed credit programmes have, as pointed out by the committee, eroded profitability, flexibility, productivity and efficiency of the banks and financial institutions. The committee's correctives for this are in keeping with the liberalisation ethos. The slashing down of credit for the priority sector will help reduce the fiscal deficit which is so necessary for the health of the economy. The pruning of the priority sector to keep down lending at the current level of ten per cent of aggregate advances is not an anti-poor move.

The suggestion to encourage opening of the private banks and the foreign banks is inconsistent with the past policies. So is the decision to ban further bank take-over. The advo-

cates of the public sector and the opponents of foreign banks' entry into India for banking business do not welcome it although the committee is moving with new trends as reflected in the economic reforms. In furtherance of the new approach, the committee has rightly recommended a "level playing field for all the existing banks and the removal of entry barriers for the new ones".

Notably, the Narasimham committee does not propose privatisation of the public sector banks. The present government, too, has made a similar declaration to allay the unfounded fears of the bank employees. It bears re-iteration that the committee wants the government to keep off from the banks and to allow them to function in an environment of complete autonomy.

The reduction in the SLR and the CRR recommended by the committee may result in excessive liquidity and thus aggravate inflation. India, with over-heated economy, cannot afford to take this risk.

The banking and financial circles feel that there is little scope for lowering the SLR for banks, although some re-alignment of reserve requirements (Rs 88,000 crore as of November 29, 1991) could be made.

Computerisation of bank operations may have the positive effect improving consumer service, which has deteriorated in the past few years but it may have an adverse effect on the tempo of employment exasperating the already growing unemployment situation. The dilemma to computerise or not to computerise cannot be resolved easily. One cannot however ignore the fact that the existing foreign banks or the new entrants, if any, equipped with sophisticated and modern equipment, including computers and automatic teller machines will marginalise others without such machines.

The Narasimham committee report evokes mixed reactions as it seeks to overturn the banking policy of the past four decades. Prof Mrinal D. Chaudhuri says that his efforts would be worth their while if the report generates a debate among political leaders.

Birth-pangs of New Commonwealth

Like Communism itself, the USSR is dead. Leaders of 11 former Soviet republics on December 21, 1991, signed a historic protocol according to which the existence of the once mighty and sprawling Soviet Union was ended and the establishment of a Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was proclaimed. The momentous decision was taken at Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan. A significant declaration was issued on the occasion

The new leader is Mr Boris Yeltsin who now exercises immense power and holds the "nuclear button". The seven-year long regime of Mr Mikhail Gorbachov ended with his resignation from the Soviet Presidency. There is considerable instability verging on chaos and confusion in some areas.

Mr Gorbachov committed many errors of judgement and paid the price for them. But his successor, Mr Yeltsin, does not inspire confidence. He lacks the leadership qualities "Gorby" possessed. His attitude as the President of the large Russian republic towards other entities was arrogant. The new role and the acquisition of east powers may or may not mould the man into an amiable, widely acceptable leader.

Meanwhile the new Commonwealth has been facing tough problems and grave challenges; in fact, it is passing through a crisis. Its future is uncertain.

I. Gorbachov's Farewell

IN his farewell speech before quitting office, Mr Gorbachov made several significant observations. The following are extracts from his speech: "As a result of the newly formed situation, creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, I cease my activities in the post of the U.S.S.R. President.

I am taking this decision out of considerations based on principle. I have firmly stood for independence, self-rule for nations, for the sovereignty of the republics, but at the same time for preservation of the Union and the unity of the country.

Events went a different way. The policy prevailed of dismembering this country and disuniting the State,

with which I cannot agree. Decisions of such scale should have been taken on the basis of a popular expression of will.

The country was losing perspective. Everything had to be changed radically. I realised that to start reforms of such scale was a most difficult and even a risky thing. But even today I am convinced of the historic correctness of the democratic reforms which were started in the spring of 1985.

"This society acquired freedom, liberated itself politically and spiritually, and this is the foremost achievement which we have not yet understood completely, because we have not learned to use freedom. Work of historic significance has been accomplished. The totalitarian system has been eliminated. A breakthrough has been achieved on the way to democratic changes.

"The movement to a diverse economy has started, equality of all forms of property is becoming established, people who work on the land are coming to life again in the framework of land reform; farmers have appeared, millions of acres of land are being given over to people. Economic freedom of the producer has been legalised and entrepreneurship, shareholding, privatisation are gaining momentum.

"We live in a new world. The Cold War has ended, the arms race has stopped as has the insane militarisation which mutilated our economy, public psyche and morals. The threat of a world war has been removed. On my part everything was done during the transition period to preserve reliable control of nuclear weapons.

"The nations and peoples of this country gained real freedom to choose the way of their self-determination. The search for a democratic reformation of the multinational State brought us to the threshold of

concluding a new Union Treaty. It is vitally important to preserve the democratic achievements of the past years. They must not be given up under any circumstances, otherwise all our hopes for the better will be buried."

II. "Turning point in History"

US President George Bush paid warm tributes to Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, praising the departing Soviet President for joining the West in a search for peace across the globe. While acknowledging Mr Gorbachov's departure from the world stage as a momentous turning point in history, Mr Bush praised him for his courage and leadership as his nation dissolved around him.

President Gorbachov acted boldly and decisively to end the bitter divisions of the Cold War and contributed to the remaking of a Europe whole and free. Mr Gorbachov's revolutionary policies transformed the Soviet Union. His policies permitted the peoples of Russia and the other republics to cast aside decades of oppression and establish the foundations of freedom, the US President said.

Their partnership led to unprecedented cooperation in repelling Iraqi aggression in Kuwait, in bringing peace to Nicaragua and Cambodia, and independence to Namibia. Mr Gorbachov's participation in those events is "his legacy to his country and to the world", and they assure him an honoured place in history, the President said and praised Mr Gorbachov as a man of peace.

USA wants Russia to retain N-arms: US Secretary of State James Baker expects the powerful Russian federation to be the only former Soviet republic to retain nuclear weapons. His remarks, made on December 20, appeared to contradict earlier statements by Kazakhstan

President Nursultan Nazarbayev that the Central Asia republic might also retain some nuclear arms.

Ukraine, Byelorussia and Kazakhstan had pledged to sign the international Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) as non-nuclear powers, indicating that they intended to get rid of their nuclear weapons. Russia, which saw itself as the logical successor to the Soviet Union, would remain a nuclear power.

But Mr Nazarbayev indicated after talks with Mr Baker in the Kazakh capital, Alma Ata, that his republic and Russia would both retain nuclear weapons.

Coup warning: Hours before President Gorbachov tendered his resignation, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze warned of the possibility of a coup. He was very apprehensive. "I do not know what to call it—a putsch, an uprising or an explosion, but the threat is still as great."

The most serious development appeared to be Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi's blast at Mr Boris Yeltsin.

Mr Rutskoi, who visited Iran on a diplomatic mission, has frequently been mentioned by the US media as the one man who has the authority to carry off a coup with the support of the Red Army to "save the Soviet Union" if he feels that the alternative to stern action is chaos.

Yeltsin blames Gorbachov: The Russian President, Mr Boris Yeltsin, blamed Mr Mikhail Gorbachov towards the end of December for the economic crisis facing the former Soviet Union. In an interview to "Newsweek", Yeltsin said he did not foresee any food riots or another coup attempt by the army.

Mr Gorbachov began driving him out when he began telling him that Perestroika was a mistake. "If we had followed the course that we are following today, we would have overcome the economic crisis—the catastrophic situation of our people—a long time ago", he said.

According to Mr Yeltsin, Mr Gorbachov wanted to combine things that cannot be combined. He wanted

to marry a hedgehog and a grass snake, communism and market economy, public property and private property ownership, the multi-party system and the Communist Party with its monopoly on power.

"But these things are incompatible. He wanted to retain some of the old things while introducing new reforms. In his latest mistake he wanted our country to be a single State. That is impossible, but he decided to stick to his illusions and bide his time."

III. Sequence of Events

THE following is a chronology of major events while Mr Gorbachov led the Soviet Union.

March 11, 1985: Gorbachov was named General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party following death of Konstantin Chernenkov.

February, 1986: Gorbachov proposed extensive restructuring of the Soviet society or "Perestroika".

December 8, 1987: Gorbachov met US President Ronald Reagan in Washington and signed Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty that banned ground-based missiles with ranges of 480-5,600 km. The treaty went into effect on June 1, 1988.

May 15, 1988: The Soviet Union began withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

October 1: Gorbachov replaced Mr Andrei Gromyko as Chairman of Presidium of Supreme Soviet.

May 15, 1989: Gorbachov visited China, ending stand-off between Moscow and Beijing that began in early 1960s.

May 25: Gorbachov was elected Chairman of Supreme Soviet by Congress of People's Deputies.

February 5, 1990: Gorbachov officially proposed multi-party political system and introduction of executive State presidency.

March 11: Lithuania declared independence. Neighbouring Latvia and Estonia followed suit.

March 15: Gorbachov elected first Soviet President by Congress of People's Deputies.

May 31 to June 2: Gorbachov initiated agreement with US President George Bush in Washington that led to strategic arms reduction treaty (START), reducing long-range nuclear arsenals by 30 per cent.

October 15: Gorbachov named winner of 1990 Nobel Peace Prize.

November 17: Gorbachov urged signing of new Union treaty which would redefine relations between Kremlin and governments of republics.

March 17: Union treaty approved in nationwide referendum.

April 16-20: Gorbachov became first Soviet leader to visit Japan and hold talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

June 12: Boris Yeltsin wins Russian federation's first presidential election.

July 17: Gorbachov became first Soviet leader to attend the G-7 summit of leading industrialised countries. He agreed with Mr Bush on all aspects of START treaty.

July 26: Communist leaders overwhelmingly approved Gorbachov's new party platform, abandoning decades of Marxist rule.

July 31: Gorbachov signed START treaty in Moscow with Mr Bush.

August 19: Gorbachov was removed from presidency by hardline communist junta. A national state of emergency was declared.

August 21: Coup failed, Gorbachov returned to Moscow.

August 24: Gorbachov resigned as head of Communist Party and urged it be disbanded.

September 2: US formally recognised Baltic republics.

September 6: Soviet Union recognised Baltics independence.

October 1: Twelve remaining Soviet republics agreed to form new economic union.

October 18: Gorbachov and presidents of eight Soviet republics signed treaty to create economic union.

November 4: Ukraine agreed to join 12 remaining Soviet republics in

new economic union.

November 14: Seven Soviet republics agreed in principle on new Union treaty.

December 1: Ukrainians voted overwhelmingly for independence in referendum.

December 3: Gorbachov issued appeal for remaining Soviet republics to sign political treaty with Kremlin or face poverty and collapse.

December 8: Russia, Ukraine, Byelorussia declared Soviet Union dead and agreed to form Commonwealth of Independent States.

December 17: Gorbachov and Yeltsin agreed on dissolution of the Soviet Union by the end of 1991.

December 21: Eleven of 12 republics sign accord on formation of Commonwealth of Independent States.

December 25: Gorbachov announced resignation as Soviet President.

IV. Alma-Ata Declaration

THE heads of 11 republics which on December 21 constituted a new Commonwealth of Independent countries, thus disbanding the Soviet Union, issued the following Declaration:

The independent republics of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan, Kurgizia, Moldavia, the Russian federation, Tadzhikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

Seeking to build democratic, law-governed States, the relations between which will develop on the lines of mutual recognition and respect for State sovereignty and sovereign equality, the inalienable right to self-determination, principles of equality and non-interference in internal affairs, the rejection of the use of force, and economic and any other methods of pressure, a peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for human rights and freedoms, including the rights of national minorities, a conscientious fulfilment of commitments and other generally recognised principles and standards of international law.

Recognising and respecting each

other's territorial integrity and the inviolability of the existing borders, believing that the strengthening of the relations of friendship, good neighbourliness and mutually advantageous cooperation which has deep historic roots, meets the basic interests of nations and promotes the cause of peace and security.

Being aware of their responsibility for the preservation of civilian peace and inter-ethnic accord, being loyal to the objectives and principles of agreement on the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, are making the following statement:

"Cooperation between members of the Commonwealth will be carried out in accordance with the principles of equality through coordinating institutions formed on a parity basis, and operating in the way established by the agreements between the members of the Commonwealth, which is neither a State nor a super State structure.

In order to ensure international strategic stability and security, allied command of the military, strategic forces and a single control over nuclear weapons will be preserved, the sides will respect each other's desire to attain the status of a non-nuclear and (or) neutral State.

The Commonwealth of Independent States is open, with the agreement of all its participants, to the States—members of the former Soviet Union, as well as other States sharing the goals and principles of the Commonwealth, which may join it.

The allegiance to cooperation in the formation and development of the common economic space and all European and Eurasian markets is being confirmed.

With the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States the Union of the Socialist Republics ceases to exist.

Member-States of the Commonwealth guarantee, in accordance with their constitutional procedures, the fulfilment of international obligations stemming from the treaties and agreements of the former USSR.

V. Republics to have own Armies

LEADERS of the new Commonwealth of Independent countries have failed to preserve a unified conventional force and let member-States form their own armies in a compromise on the most divisive issue facing their young alliance. The Army feels it is being torn apart.

Still, heads of the 11 former Soviet republics, agreed on December 31 on a permanent unified command over the former Soviet Union's 27,000 nuclear warheads. They also ironed out some economic policies. Under the agreement, each State in the Commonwealth will be allowed to have its own army. The States may also opt to let the commander of the Commonwealth's joint nuclear forces control former Soviet troops on their territory. Azerbaijan, Moldavia and Ukraine have said they want to form their own armies. The other member-States, including Russia, will take part in the unified command over the troops.

Mr Yeltsin hailed the agreement on nuclear control as the most important achievement at the meeting that was expected to be divided over military issues. The leaders have insisted that no one President will dominate the Council. Mr Yeltsin, whose republic is the central pillar of the Commonwealth, has stated repeatedly that the members will be "equal among equals".

The mixed results from the meeting showed that the Commonwealth, while facing many sticky problems, managed to pass the first test of its survival on the ruins of the old Soviet Union. The leaders agreed on the principles of common tariff and transportation systems, and agreed to reconstitute the existing State television and radio monopoly as a Commonwealth-wide broadcasting network. The leaders also created a separate council of the republics' Prime Ministers.

But deep divisions continued over economic policy. Byelorussia announced it would free prices on most consumer goods the day after Russia did a similar step. The European

Community said in Brussels that it was recognising the Ukraine and seven other former Soviet republics.

VI. Nuclear-Weapons Problem

THERE has justifiably been worldwide concern over the possession and possible misuse of the 27,000 odd nuclear weapons which the former Soviet Union possessed. The position regarding these weapons has varied, though not sharply, during the past few weeks.

According to the latest available reports, the distribution of nuclear weapons was, and continues to be, as follows: Russia 19,000; Ukraine 4,000; Kazakhstan 1,800; Byelorussia 1250; Lithuania 325; Georgia 320; Azerbaijan 300; Estonia 270; Armenia 200; Latvia 185; Turkmenistan 125; Uzbekistan 105; Moldavia 90; Tadzhikistan 75; Kurgizia 75.

On December 17, 1991, Mr Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President, assured the US Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, that all the 27,000 nuclear weapons would be put under strict control. He also envisaged that a single authority would take charge of all strategic and nuclear weapons. Three of the republics possessing nuclear weapons have promised to destroy these arms, leaving Russia as the only nuclear State from the splintering Soviet Union. The three republics that would relinquish nuclear weapons are Ukraine, Byelorussia and Kazakhstan. All four would join the international Non-proliferation Treaty.

"Nuclear Button": Until he resigned the post of Soviet President, Mr Gorbachov held the command chain, notably for strategic missiles. The next in line were the Minister for Defence and the Chief of General Staff. The Permission Command was through three separate codes. Immediately after his resignation, Mr Gorbachov handed over the black box containing the "nuclear button" to Mr Yeltsin.

The problem indeed is not so much of security as of command and control systems. These constitute much more than a Presidential button. They are, as elsewhere, a vast

system of warning stations, monitoring and command built up over four decades in an effort to ensure the maximum possible security.

All of the command control network leads to Moscow but not everything, as far as is known, directly to the President. The apex of the command system is believed to be more diffuse than in the West. While the senior political figure cannot launch a strike without the military, the latter could probably do so without the President after a general consensus among ranking figures.

The abundance of nuclear weapons in the territory now known as the Commonwealth of Independent countries and their distribution certainly poses a threat to the West. Senator Sam Nunn, who head the Arms Services Committee and is believed to be the most influential member of the US Congress on Security issues, recently called for an urgent top level initiative to send money and technicians from the US and its allies to begin the process of disarming Soviet warheads. The US Senator has urged that western governments should insist on establishing a time frame for disabling stocking and disarming Soviet warheads that no longer serve defence purposes. But it is believed that dismantling the bulk of the Soviet warheads would take a decade. The task is beyond the capacity of Soviet technicians. They have never dismantled a nuclear warhead successfully and have no system for disposing of the fissionable material. For that western funds and expertise technicians will be needed. A bill has been sponsored in the US Congress for 500 million dollars to help neutralise Soviet nuclear weapons as a step towards enhancing US national security. But White House has not taken any action so far. The Senator has also suggested that Washington should join with allied nations including Germany and Italy and Britain, to mount a broad effort to prevent Soviet and expertise from falling into the hands of ethnic factions of "rogue governments".

Unified control of N-arms: Russian President Boris Yeltsin on

December 29 reiterated his position that strategic nuclear weapons should come under unified control and that there should be a single command structure for Commonwealth armed forces.

"We will have to agree on unified armed forces, on their structure and interaction and on unified control over strategic nuclear weapons", Mr Yeltsin said in Moscow. They should also reach an agreement what to do with the land forces in the States which are now independent. The majority of their leaders favour a single command for the armed forces of the Commonwealth countries.

While Ukraine and Belarus have said they would like to be nuclear-free States, Kazakhstan has asserted it would keep nuclear weapons as long as Russia keeps them. Ukraine is also unhappy at Russia taking over all the seats held by the former Soviet Union.

VII. Challenge for India

THE changes and developments in the former USSR evidently call for an overhaul of India's foreign policy because many of the policy's basic postulates and features were closely linked with India-Soviet Union relations. Henceforth, for many years to come, India may not be able to depend on the countries formerly constituting the Soviet Union—to the extent to which it has been doing up to the last quarter of 1991. Until the situation in the new Commonwealth stabilises and a clear picture emerges, India will not be able to take firm decisions in this regard. It is, however, obvious that this country will have to maintain the best of relationship with the republics.

It is clear that the 1971 Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between India and the USSR, recently renewed for another 20-year period, has now become almost irrelevant. The policy understandings will have to be re-negotiated.

Meanwhile new opportunities for trade, investment and other economic relations will have to be established as best as is possible in the circumstances. In fact, it has been rightly stated that the easiest solution

to the complex problem raised by the Soviet fragmentation is expansion of economic relations. It needs to be noted that the Western countries are already moving ahead to encourage business contacts in spite of the political risks implicit in any understanding at the present juncture.

It is significant that Russia, the successor State, on December 27 described India's recognition of 12 republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union as a "bold and timely step" and hoped that a summit meeting between Mr Yeltsin and Indian Prime Minister Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, early in 1992, would boost and give a fillip to their already existing friendly ties.

"India is our closest friend. Apart from political motives, friendship with India has become a deep-rooted tradition", according to the Minister Counsellor of the Russian Federation embassy in India. But these words are a part of the usual diplomatic courtesies and do not necessarily convey firm commitments.

The Russian diplomat added that as a prelude to the summit, the two sides would have high-level discussions in Moscow early in the new year to sort out problems which had accumulated in the past. Mr Yeltsin has promised to visit India soon.

Referring to the Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty, the Embassy spokesman said the Russian Federation was committed to all international treaties and obligations. We have been maintaining close contacts with India and there has been no misunderstanding between the two countries. He hoped that political, economic and scientific cooperation would reach new heights and the level of cooperation would increase in future.

There are some problems in trade matters, like the rupee-rouble issue, which are likely to be solved soon. Due to this problem, many joint ventures could not materialise. The debt problem will also come up for discussion. Whether this problem will be taken up with the Russian Federation or other republics, is a question to be resolved by the Commonwealth very soon.

The Ukraine President, Mr Leonid Kravchuk, said on December 19 that "India will enjoy high and special" priority in the foreign policy of independent Ukraine. During a talk with the Indian Ambassador to Moscow, Mr Alfred Gonsalves, the Ukraine Foreign Minister said his country would maintain its historical ties with India on a direct basis and he was keen on signing an agreement on trade, project cooperation and defence supplies. In addition with the commercial agreement, Ukraine is willing to sign a shipping and banking agreement. Ukraine is a major supplier of steel, power and coal equipment to India.

Some major problems for India would arise if the nationalities integrated into the Russian republic seek autonomy or independence through violence if the independent Islamic republics become restless. There would then be intolerable instability close to India and arouse passions among religious fundamentalists and unprincipled opposition politicians in India who often make attempts to embarrass the Government of India on any pretext, regardless of the danger to the country's interests.

Impact on defence set-up: According to a close observer of India's defence set-up, the collapse of the Soviet Union is causing nightmares to the defence planners, especially those handling the problem of ensuring a regular supply of spares for the equipment supplied by the former Soviet Union. Until the close of 1991, India relied on the former U.S.S.R. for the supply of a wide variety of weapons. The defence supplies came from different centres now scattered among various republics over a wide area.

The smooth functioning of the top-line weapons and equipment systems is now endangered because of the latest developments in the former Soviet Union. It needs to be noted that among the systems facing the problems of spares are: the entire ground-based air defence system, armoured personnel carriers (APCs), a large percentage of main battle tanks, air force missiles, reconnaissance and

transport planes and helicopters of all varieties. The tanks and APC factories are in Ukraine and Belarus; the air force infrastructure is more widely distributed among the republics. The MiG aircraft units are in Russia; some types of aircraft are manufactured in Ukraine and some others (IL series) are in Tashkent. Centrally negotiated transactions seem unlikely in the present conditions, notably the absence of accord among the new Commonwealth members.

Moreover, there is the question of payments and the terms of supply. Russia has expressed opposition to aid in defence of any country. So it will have to be on a purely commercial and cash basis.

Military experts say the major problem envisaged is in indigenous manufacture of critical assembly and sub-assembly spares. Since the problem of ensuring defence supplies has become serious, perhaps it would be safer to negotiate purchase of supplies, as far as possible, from East European countries like Poland and Czechoslovakia rather than the new Commonwealth of Independent countries. The former are likely to be more dependable; the latter are in any case shaky and in a fluid state. The difficulty is that the republics want to buy goods for rupees but they do not want to sell goods for rupees; hence they owe India some Rs 1900 crore. Since India herself has grave economic difficulties, it cannot finance the transactions with the republics. Economists urge a more realistic rupee-rouble exchange rate. Perhaps the republics will take an accommodating stand on this issue at this juncture.

VIII. Future of Yeltsin and C'wealth

MR Yeltsin, the political successor of Mr Gorbachov, was mistaken in thinking that by occupying the Kremlin he would automatically become a great hero and the unquestioned leader of the new Commonwealth. He has to face many formidable challenges, the chief being the hungry and devastated Russia. In fact his ascent to power and transitory supremacy, it is feared

by many of his own close friends and others, as having come at a most unfavourable moment.

The prices are soaring (these were freed of all controls on January 2, 1992, and since then there has been complete liberalisation. The Russian Government has reassured the poor sections—and they constitute quite a number—that it would keep prices of most essential articles and services under control, but there are grave doubts about this matter. There is growing frustration, misgivings about the future and about the capacity of the Commonwealth to deliver the goods. The new leaders will of course rely on the West for bailing them out of their numerous economic difficulties, but how helpful it proves remains to be seen.

One factor that counts a great deal is the size of the landmass of the new Commonwealth and the magnitude of the problem of rescuing millions of people from misery. Huge funds are required for rehabilitation and other purposes. American experts estimate that a smooth transition of the former Soviet Union to the

market would require over 1,500,000 million dollars. This amount the western countries would find it difficult to mobilise. There is considerable instability in the new political entity. It is improbable that big investors would go there to expedite economic recovery.

Moreover, there are reasons to believe that the former republics do not fully trust Mr Yeltsin. Mr Gorbachov had glamour and a halo around him. This Mr Yeltsin lacks. Mr Gorbachov was an internationalist, but Mr Yeltsin seems more concerned with his own republic of Russia. The relations with Ukraine where 11.5 million ethnic Russians live, will also be a challenge. Countless people fear that Mr Yeltsin's presidency will be more turbulent than the Gorbachov era. Mr Yeltsin, by habit and nature, is arrogant. He might seek to become totalitarian and a super-President.

Communism is dead. To fill the "vacuum", the western leaders, including industrialists, may strive to transform the former communist republics into capitalist democracies. The US-based Peace Corps has al-

ready planned to send about 500 volunteers to the republics during the next two years to promote capitalism. The volunteers would help establish private business ventures, teach English and promote environmental concerns.

Disintegration in the former Soviet bloc countries is also believed to pose a major threat to Europe because the worsening economic climate is likely to lead to an exodus to the West. The Polish Defence Minister has already cautioned that poor economic conditions, coupled with a harsh winter, could spark dangerous developments—not a military threat but an uncontrolled population migration affecting not only Poland but the entire western Europe.

In military terms, a Vice-Admiral said in an interview to "Jane's Defence weekly", the strongest threat to Poland and Europe is the loss of control over nuclear arms from all the republics where the nuclear weapons are kept. The effort of the whole world should therefore be to guarantee collision-free nuclear disarmament of the republics.

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Argumentative Questions on Social and Economic Problems

WORLD'S WORST DEMOCRACY

Q. "India's democracy is in many ways the world's worst." Do you agree with this view? Give arguments For and Against it.

Ans. A democracy means a system of government in which all adult citizens share power through their elected representatives. The citizens in a democracy have full rights of citizenship, such as freedom of speech, religion, opinion and association; there is assertion of the rule of law, majority rule accompanied by respect for the rights of the minorities. India's democracy has, however, many faults which are not so prominent in western democracies such as those of the USA and Britain. In our set-up there are many distinctive features too, and these bring us much credit. But haven't our high moral postures been eroded?

Arguments For the View

1. The very first step in India's democratic process—that of elections—is faulty. It is true that in every democracy, small or big, any contestant who secures a majority of even a few votes wins the election and secures a seat on the legislature for a fixed term, or until the legislature is dissolved. But in this country the multiplicity of candidates virtually spoils the process. It has become quite common to have five, 10 or even more candidates for a single seat. The winner claims the seat even if he wins one-tenth plus one votes, which means that nine-tenths of the voting electorate goes unrepresented. The "first past the post" system is very unfair in the Indian context.

2. According to reports emanating from various sources, the electoral malpractices such as rigging, bogus voting, impersonation and violence, have spread so rapidly in this country, and to such an extent, that our democracy has become fal-

sified and is also tainted with blood.

3. In this country minority governments have become quite common. The implication is that the majority of the people are not represented in the Government of the day; a minority rules year after year. There are sharp divisions not only among the electorate but also among the legislators. This has rightly been described as "political dilution". When a government enjoys the support of only 30 or 35 per cent of the electorate, how can it expect loyalty, affection and obedience from the majority of 70 or 65 per cent adult enfranchised voters? This causes disaffection and absence of loyalty.

4. These flaws contribute to the confusion, disorder and bedlam in Parliament and the State legislatures. In such conditions when there is a walk-out or uproar inside legislative chambers, adequate attention is not given to the main task of legislation. Legislative proposals are rushed through the House in a few minutes. Badly drafted, ill-considered laws cause further trouble and the country's democracy gets a bad name.

Arguments Against the View

1. The democratic regimes in the USA and Britain are exceptions; the electorate there is well educated and progressive. The scores of democratic institutions elsewhere in the world also suffer from the same faults as the Indian system. In fact, democratic regimes in some other continents (such as Latin America) are a blot on the fair name of democracy itself. It is uncommon to have straight contests and a limited number of candidates in the field in these defective regimes also.

2. Our democracy may be having many flaws but it is a

democracy all the same. In other so-called democracies there are so many trends towards authoritarianism that these cannot be rightly described as governments of the people, by the people and for the people. They are in fact dictatorships masquerading as democracies.

3. In India elections are held regularly, though it is true that there are several electoral malpractices. In many "democracies" elections are not held regularly. Authoritarian rulers summon legislatures when their consent is needed for form's sake. Our Parliament meets regularly. Some of the Latin American countries continue to be military regimes. India's democracy is far better when compared to the regimes in such countries.

4. As for multiplicity of candidates and the unfortunate splitting of votes rendering the democratic process almost meaningless, the fact is that only two or three candidates are serious contestants; the others are there either as dummies or are merely "also rans", or they only want some temporary facilities such as telephones and some funds from their political parties whose ticket they manage to get.

INDIA—USA'S CLIENT STATE?

Q. "India is fast becoming a US client State and has partly surrendered its sovereignty." Give arguments For and Against this view.

Ans. The recent developments in the international arena, especially the break-up of the Soviet Union, have led to closer India-US relations. The past tensions and misunderstandings between these two large countries have been forgotten; more and more understandings have been reached for mutual benefit in this process of conciliation. Several

foreign policy adjustments have been made by the Government of India in recent months to suit the new conditions. In fact some of these adjustments have gone so far that many critics have alleged surrender of India's sovereignty to the US and certain international agencies such as the World Bank and the IMF. But that is regarded by many as an unwarranted charge.

Arguments For the View

1. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union—India's most dependable friend and ally—New Delhi has bent over backwards to comply with Washington's wishes and reach understandings with its various agencies even at the cost of our freedom of action and our independence of judgement.

2. India's expectations are that the US will replace Moscow as this country's close friend and supporter. In the unipolar world that has emerged after the dissolution of the USSR, the US is the sole giant who will henceforth determine the shape of things to come in the international arena. No wonder New Delhi wishes to be on the best of terms with the US and has gone out of its way to achieve the aim.

3. For many years the Soviet Union was the main supplier of weapons and other military hardware to India. Now that the traditional source of arms has virtually dried up, the focus of earnest attention has shifted to Washington. Although there are no firm promises and commitments to supply weapons to India, an agreement has already been reached for military cooperation. Delegations from the armed forces and from the defence ministry have already visited the US and held prolonged discussions with the officials concerned. In the second half of 1991 there was much talk of the Kickleigher proposals under which there would be Service to Service inter-action. This arrangement has been made by the US with several other countries also but it is the first time India has been included in the list. It may be recalled that in the early fifties the Government of India discouraged such military exchanges. The significance of the shift in the stand needs to be noted.

Arguments Against the View

1. There are no permanent friends or permanent enemies in this world. Treaties and agreements are subject to change and modifications in accordance with the changing circumstances. So there is no sanctity about the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, 1971, which was renewed last August. The USSR as an entity has ceased to exist; instead, there is the new Commonwealth with Russia as the largest constituent and Mr Boris Yeltsin as its head. The former Soviet Union is no longer in a position to fulfil the role and the commitments it had made. Hence the urgent need of establishing new friendships and the most appropriate new ally is the USA which can fill the vacuum as no other country can.

2. India's Defence Minister, Mr Sharan Patil, has urged openness of military relationships not only with the USA but also with other countries. So it is not going to be a question of becoming a client State of one western power (the USA).

3. This is the most suitable time and opportunity of promoting friendly ties. Pakistan is no longer a close ally and recipient of a substantial quota of economic and military aid. Indo-US military cooperation would certainly be in mutual interest, notwithstanding the sharp divergence in perceptions on nuclear matters.

4. The times have changed and the US is no longer a country that actively pursues imperialist aims. Nor does it believe in establishing colonies and client States now. It has presumably learnt a lesson from recent developments and the growing love of liberty and freedom all round. Client States have ceased to be a trend. We must not turn a blind eye to the new realities nor stick to outdated beliefs and trends that have passed into history.

ROLE OF POLICE IN DEMOCRACY

Q. "The highest conception of a police-force in a democratic society should be social service, and if this is to be realised, there must be a

complete reorientation in the outlook and approach of police personnel." Give arguments For and Against this view.

Ans. Admittedly, the main task of the police is enforcement of law and order, safeguarding property and providing protection to all citizens. They have to play a positive role in the new system of social defence which lays much emphasis on the creative aspect. While laying the foundation-stone of a new Police Academy building near Hyderabad on January 19, 1992, Union Home Minister S.B. Chavan expressed himself against calling in the Army for tackling law and order problems. He said the police force must be reoriented to fully discharge this responsibility. There is a proposal to constitute an expert committee to look into various aspects of the police force such as adequacy of its strength, training, weaponry, gadgets and communication equipment. Several committees and commissions have reported on the attitudes of and flaws in the police force. But these have made little difference.

Arguments For the View

1. Social service is a relatively new concept of the role of the police. Until now, the police was expected to confine its functions to those of maintaining law and order, checking crime. Service of society in other ways is an altogether different line of action. No one would deny that for this purpose there ought to be complete reorientation in the outlook of the policemen and officers.

2. The police personnel work under considerable stress and strain. The irony is that while it seldom gets credit for performing its functions well and keeping a large part of society free of crime, it is promptly blamed for every lapse or supposed lapse.

3. The menace of terrorism poses a new challenge to society. Since the terrorists have the advantage of possessing the most sophisticated weapons and they are also able to pick and choose their area of operation as well as their potential victims, the police are certainly at a disadvantage; so they have not been effective in checking the militants' activities. The Army has to be summoned in cases of communal or other

types of disorder. Without equipping the police personnel with the latest weapons and giving them adequate training in the use of modern arms and chalking out a new strategy, the Government (and the people) should not blame the police for the lapses and shortcomings. There should be complete reorientation in the outlook and approach of both police officers and lower categories of personnel.

4. A reform and training strategy for the needs of modernisation should be based on an adequate understanding of the new approach that should dominate the scene. This is necessary in order to ensure that the entire set-up responds positively to the growing challenge of the rapidly changing society. The old traditions have to be forgotten and the police in modern times should have a reoriented approach if it is to perform its duties effectively and come upto the expectations of the Government and the people.

Arguments Against the View

1. The proposed pattern of training will not be enough to meet the new requirements because of unmistakable fall in the general morale of the police force. What can the process of modernisation do if the morale is low and if the requisite vigour and determination are lacking? The decline in morale is due to the unequal battles the police have been required to fight, especially the one with the well-armed, wily and determined terrorists.

2. As long as there is political interference in the posting and functioning of the police, there would be lack of effectiveness and persisting low morale. So there is no point in merely providing more weapons to police personnel as long the politicians' pressure and interference are not ended.

3. While the training does need to be reoriented it is even more important to streamline the methods of recruitment. Somehow persons of the requisite qualifications, standard and status are not being recruited. Only a minority of the new recruits are alert and intelligent while it is necessary to ensure alertness and intelligence in every policeman, newly recruited or

the old ones.

4. At present there is a professional bias among policemen to keep their structure "closed", like restricted trade unions. This should be discarded if all-round improvements are to be ensured.

5. There is so much corruption in the police that the entire force entrusted with the vital task of maintaining law and order has become notorious for this evil. Not to speak of petty criminals, even murderers and professional assailants do their dirty jobs and merrily get away.

6. The National Police Commission and some other bodies have observed that an efficient communication system is essential for adequate functioning of the force. Such a communication system should ensure speed, accuracy and integrity of transmission. This basic requisite is still missing, even though some wireless-equipped jeeps and cars are now at the disposal of the police in cosmopolitan towns.

IS REFERENDUM ADVISABLE?

Q. "Adoption of the practice of holding referendum in India would be inadvisable." Give arguments For and Against this view.

Ans. *Decades ago, the devices of initiative and referendum were introduced in some countries, notably Switzerland, to overcome some of the defects of indirect democracy. The practice of referendum implied a reference of a major issue to the people for decision instead of letting the legislature decide the matter one way or the other. In a referendum the people's vote is regarded as final.*

Arguments For the View

1. Experience of referendums in certain countries, especially large ones, has shown that this device is unworkable. The transfer of power from the representatives of the people to the masses directly has led to wrong decisions, and since the verdict of the people is regarded as irreversible, wrong decisions have done much harm to the country.

2. Verdicts by referendum would mean decisions by ignorant and largely uneducated people—the masses. While duly elected representatives of the people constituting

the legislature fulfil the prescribed qualifications, the men and women in the streets have no understanding of important problems. The worst aspects of democracy would then become manifest with a vengeance. India is a huge country in which the number of illiterate people runs into crores. In a referendum no distinction is made between educated, knowledgeable people and others. Ignorant people can be easily misled and misguided by selfish politicians through oratory and rhetoric.

3. In a referendum it is possible only to reject or accept; it is not possible to amend or select. Besides, a referendum generally supports the *status quo* and not radical reforms even if these are overdue.

Arguments Against the View

1. The device of referendum would be a check on hasty legislation. Such practices of direct democracy have ensured that vitally important measures such as amendments to the Constitution are not pushed through without the clear consent of the people. It is the last and sensible step in the process of democracy—rule of the people in the real sense.

2. Members of Parliament and of the various State legislatures do not maintain regular and effective touch with the people. Because of their preoccupations with party politics, toppling drives and the bid for the loaves and fishes of office, they ignore the people whose voice is heard only after five years—at the time of elections. In fact, even in Britain it is at times felt that the representative system has broken down.

3. The impression that the Indian masses are ignorant is baseless. The maturity and innate wisdom of the masses have been proved by all general elections held in this country during the past three decades or so. If the voters exercise sound judgement in a general election, they can do so in a referendum also. Moreover, the people at large would vote for a measure and a principle, not individuals as such. In a referendum they have to consider the merits and demerits of a single issue, not a jumble of issues.

ECONOMIC SCENE

Role of Monetary Policy

Q. Discuss how the monetary policy and the interest rate are being harnessed as instruments to meet the economic ailments in India.

Ans. In the context of the economic crisis, inherited by the present government at the Centre, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a package of measures to correct the balance of payments. It is aimed at import compression, acceleration of the realisation of export proceeds and curbing the aggregate demand.

The bank has raised the interest rates on commercial bank deposits as well as the loans by a substantial margin. The re-finance facility to commercial banks is drastically cut. Thus has the RBI introduced the tightest monetary policy ever. It has attracted severe indictment.

It is argued that the RBI dear money policy would only add to the existing cost-push inflation rather than containing it. To ensure a lower effective exchange rate to narrow down the yawning current account deficit what is needed is a lower inflation rate. The monetary policy is, therefore, ill-suited to meet the present situation.

The monetary authorities have emphasised tightening of the monetary and credit system through the interest rate mechanism supplemented with other measures for curbing aggregate demand. Mr C. Rangarajan, former deputy governor, RBI, believes that the restrictive monetary policy and aggregate demand reduction are the appropriate policies in the prevailing economic scenario.

The RBI approach lays stress on aggregate demand management to play a greater role in fighting inflation than the aggregate supply management. Mr Rangarajan says

that unless the overall aggregate demand is brought down, the advantage of rupee devaluation would be eaten away by inflation.

The increase in interest rate as an instrument of monetary policy would reduce the quantum of borrowing from the commercial banks and through adjustments in the levels of production and factor incomes.

The rise in the interest rate will affect production only if it results in contraction in inventory-holding in the long term but may not cause adverse production if such a rise leads to better inventory management.

The increase in interest rate on bank deposits operates as an incentive to savers and therefore the higher interest rate structure is needed to attract savings which have started declining.

The interest rate re-structure is key to the financial sector reform. The Narasimham committee on bank reforms has made some crucial recommendations on this issue. It has suggested reduction in the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) on incremental deposits, de-regulation and simplification of the interest rate structure. Mr Rangarajan is in agreement with the committee. The administered structure of the interest rate has undoubtedly enabled certain preferred or priority sectors to borrow at cheaper cost or concessional rate of interest but, at the same time, it has led to certain weaknesses. According to Mr Rangarajan, the partial de-regulation of interest rates has disadvantaged the banks. Complete de-regulation of interest rates is equally undesirable economically and unacceptable politically.

Battling Inflation

Q. Analyse briefly the continuing spurt in the commodity prices. What remedial measures has the

government taken or proposes to take?

Ans. The Union Finance Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, had claimed in July last that his maiden budget for 1991-92 was disinflationary. The price scenario during the six post-budget months does not support the claim.

In a note on inflation, recently prepared by the finance ministry, concern has been expressed over the build-up of inflationary pressures. At the same time, confidence has been expressed that the structural reforms in the areas of industry, trade, public sector and the financial system coupled with strict monetary and fiscal discipline will rein in inflation through imparting dynamism to the growth process and increasing efficiency as well as productivity.

Inflationary level: The annual rate of inflation was 13.6 per cent for the week ended December 7, 1991, compared to 10.6 per cent on the corresponding date in 1990. The current inflation rate is much more "moderate" compared to the 30 per cent per annum in 1974, or 300 per cent in Russia. When "politicised", it assumes demonic dimension.

Causes: What causes concern is that substantial price rise has occurred despite the three bumper harvests in a row and the good prospects for the fourth one in the current fiscal year. The price rise during this year is due to hike in food prices (19.3 per cent), minerals (5.1 per cent) and manufactured products (7.5 per cent).

The inflationary build-up is accounted for by the ever-growing fiscal deficits; supply-demand imbalances due to shortfalls in domestic output and import; wage spiral leading to cost-push and demand-pull inflation; and psychosis of inflation. The specific factors

which have contributed to the price upswing in recent months are: (1) rise in the procurement prices and the issue prices in the wake of cuts in fertiliser subsidy set the trend in the open market prices; (2) the persistent shortfalls (or stagnation?) in production of pulses led to price escalation; (3) shortage in domestic output and failure to import edible oils pushed up their prices; (4) fruit and vegetable prices increased due to market imperfections and higher transport and distribution costs following oil price hike; (5) higher freight charges and increase in the issue prices of sugar and fertilisers.

Broadly, the current price behaviour is policy-induced. It is also the consequence of constricted manoeuvrability for supply-demand management due to BOP crisis, lack of scope for further monetary squeeze and price hike of goods in short supply.

Anti-inflation strategy: There are no soft options available to roll back the prices. The twin strategy adopted by the government to curb inflation comprises squeeze on fiscal and current account deficits and boost revenues.

Towards this end, the Centre has stepped up the price of even essential commodities such as wheat, rice, sugar, coal. The issue prices of wheat and rice at the fair price shops (FPSs) have been raised in one go to make up for three previous increases in the procurement prices. The price of petroleum products has moved up in eleven States following the decision of the Centre to withdraw support for the tax levied by these State governments on these products. The upward climb in prices has frustrated the common man's hope for an early reversal of the trend. It is difficult to share the official optimism that the pricing policies would rejuvenate the economy to his good in the near future.

The Finance Minister has explained the rationale of the policies as anti-dote to the past profligacy in public spending and for targetting subsidies. The price hike in these products was long-expected and it only represents "deferred inflation".

The reduction in subsidy will help shrink the non-plan expenditure and bring down the fiscal deficit.

Austerity drive has been launched to cut the government expenditure. The Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, announced at the National Development Council meeting, 10 per cent reduction in the strength of the senior officials posts from the level of joint secretary, abolition of 1000 jobs in three agencies, namely Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, CCO and Director-General of Technical and Development; ban on ministers' foreign travel by first class by air; and 20 per cent reduction in travel budget allocation for officials. Ten per cent of the present telephone lines with Central government ministries and departments will be withdrawn.

The President of India, the Prime Minister, Mr Rao, and several Union ministers have volunteered to forego 10 per cent of their monthly salary to set an example of austerity.

It is notable that there is no such move for a voluntary cut in the emoluments by the members of the Parliament and the State legislators.

Import curbs have been eased with a view to shore up customs revenues. Efforts at tax mobilisation and excise duty collection have been intensified to increase the revenue receipts.

Curbs on imports, now being gradually relaxed, and export promotion measures are expected to reduce current account deficits. Increased imports would dampen the ambers of the fire of inflation and also augment revenue from customs duty.

Revamping of the public distribution system is being done to provide relief to the poor and to take the heat of the economy out. The government has identified 1700 blocks in rural area where fair price shops will be opened.

Dr Singh maintains that "if we persist with our macro-economic policies, inflation would go down below 10 per cent per annum".

Plan Okayed

Q. Outline the major changes

introduced in the eighth five-year plan at the recent meeting of the National Development Council.

Ans. The forty-third National Development Council meeting recommended certain important changes in the Gadgil formula for distribution of funds to the State government and for the transfer of some schemes to the States during the eighth five-year plan. These changes are as follows:

(1) Devolution of finances: The Gadgil formula governing the share of divisible funds for the Centre and the States and among the States themselves has been amended unanimously as under: The criteria and the proportion for the transfer of funds to the State governments are laid down as follows:

(a) *Population criterion:* 60 per cent (60 per cent) weightage.

(b) *Per capita income:* 25 per cent (20 per cent). The break-up of the per capita incomes is: 20 per cent on the basis of income deviation and 5 per cent on distance;

(c) *Performance:* 7.5 per cent (10 per cent), including tax effort, fiscal management, national priorities such as population, literacy and completion of foreign aided projects;

(d) *Special problems:* 7.5 per cent (10 per cent).

Note: The figures in brackets refer to the Gadgil formula.

Under the new formula, the gain or loss to the States will be within the range of 10 to 20 per cent, according to Mr Rao.

(2) Central schemes transferred: As many as 113 Centrally-sponsored schemes have been transferred to the States. But the pattern of financing them would continue as at present.

The majority of Chief Ministers attending the NDC meeting demanded transfer to the State governments the major poverty and employment generation schemes such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Prime Minister Rao has however said that these would continue to stay with the Centre.

Descriptive Questions

The following are the answers to questions in the Descriptive Paper set in the examination for P.O.s by the B.S.R.B. Delhi, held recently

We thank Mr Anil Kumar Anil of Shimla for sending us a copy of the question paper

Q. 1. The more heated arguments you win, the more good friends you lose. What is your opinion about it? Substantiate your opinion.

Ans. Human psychology is such that no one likes to be defeated either on the battlefield or in a game of hockey, tennis or football, or in a race, and not even in a debate or discussion. We like to score over others. A victory in any arena apparently boosts our ego and the winner begins to feel that he is a superior person and that the person who loses an argument is inferior in intellectual and other capacities. When we win in a heated argument, we may have the satisfaction that we have triumphed but the friend with whom we begin an argument and who ultimately is at the losing end, develops a feeling of hostility towards us. To all intents and purposes, he ceases to be on the same old friendly terms as he was before the discussion commenced.

Thus every time you win an argument with a friend, you virtually lose him if you emerge triumphant and if he is unable to answer your contentions. In effect, therefore you emerge the winner, but since you stand to lose a friend, your loss may be much greater than the other person's. It is better, therefore, to be modest, humble and not to say or do anything that might tend to humiliate a friend even if he is very much in the wrong. Winning an argument, after all, provides transitory satisfaction. We can do without entering into heated arguments. It is better to rely on "give and take", put forth an argument in response to

someone's plea and concede the merit and righteousness of his cause. After all, there are two sides of every coin.

Although there is some truth in the statement given in the question, my experience is that only hyper-sensitive persons take a defeat to heart and become hostile to a friend simply because he has won a heated argument. Carried to its logical conclusion it would mean that if you lose a hockey, tennis or football match, you would develop a feeling of hostility towards the winner. That would indeed be absurd. One should take a defeat in the sporting spirit. We all know that after a game of tennis, for instance, both players shake hands to confirm that the feelings of friendship and cordiality are not affected by victory or defeat. Only one side can win, does a decision either way mean the other side has been humbled and humiliated? Certainly not. Friendliness, forbearance and tolerance and a spirit of mutual accommodation are essential qualities among good friends. A person who takes offence if his arguments are not accepted by others is not worth cultivating as a friend. True friendship should be able to stand tests and trials.

Eliminating Corruption

Q. 2. Suggest three measures to eradicate corruption from public offices. Explain how the measures suggested by you would be effective.

Ans. Bribery, corruption, under-the-table deals and similar malpractices are quite common in public offices in this country. No tiles move until the palms of the persons concerned are greased in the manner acceptable to them. I suggest the following measures to tackle the menace.

1. Since honesty and integrity are lacking in Ministers of various categories, they have generally en-

riched themselves illegitimately, obtained good jobs for their sons and other close relations and have reaped other benefits, there should be a permanent authority to keep a continuous watch over the doings of Ministers. In this connection, the Lok Pal, appointed some years ago, should be made more active, his authority should be more extensive and his decisions should be made binding.

2. Politicians and legislators should also be brought under the jurisdiction of all anti-corruption authorities. There is a general belief that politics and democracy bring corruption in their wake. Corruption should not be tolerated as a necessary evil. But so long as there are people who are ready to offer bribes, cash or gifts of various types, in order to get their work done, and so long as there are greedy people ever ready to accept bribes, this evil will not be eradicated. So offers of bribes should be tracked and strict action taken.

3. The major reason for giving bribes is the delay in the disposal of public business. The pity is that, despite all the campaigns for eliminating delays in the disposal of office work, the bureaucracy continues to function in a tardy manner. The resort to speed money should be made unnecessary. The old, outdated time-consuming rules and regulations should be streamlined or scrapped. Lengthy and elaborate procedures prescribed by the Government for various tasks should be changed without further delay.

4. The hypocrisy in private and public life should be eliminated. It is necessary to propagate anti-corruption campaigns, and stress the importance of a clean, honest life, right from the school stage. Our people lack character, unless we develop a good moral character, there would be considerable corruption in public of-

fices. The measures suggested above would, in my view, prove effective because they would tackle the root causes of graft and corruption. Moreover, if inflation and the cost of living are kept under control, the temptations to earn extra money to feed the family would gradually fade away.

Sex Tests

Q. 3. Sex determination tests which lead to female foeticide (killing the unborn) should be banned and people found guilty should be punished. Give two arguments in favour and two against the given viewpoint.

Ans. In recent years, sex determination tests (to find out whether the child in a woman's womb is male or female) have become fashionable. The basic reason is the desire of parents to have only male children as far as possible. The prejudice against the girl child persists, even among educated people. This is indeed unfortunate.

Arguments in favour of ban on tests

1. As long as sex determination tests continue, killing unborn female children will not end. In India the social climate and the prejudices against female children persist in parents' minds because of the heavy and almost life-long liabilities associated with girls.

2. People must accept children of either sex. They are God's gifts and should not be discriminated against. The tests permitted at present to determine the sex of the unborn child have led to many malpractices and exploitation of semi-educated and ignorant people by unscrupulous, ill-qualified and bogus, fake "doctors".

Arguments Against the viewpoint

1. Ill-treatment of female children is quite common in this country. In the West parents welcome female children (they are known to be more affectionate and look after elderly parents with greater love and care than male offspring who often leave the elders (especially when they are ill) to their fate. In India things are different. According to traditional beliefs, especially among

Hindus, a son in the family is desirable because he alone is considered capable of feeding the parents with his earnings, perform the last rites at funerals. Why not make the choice between a male and a female child when it can be done before the birth of a child? Those who resort to foeticide have a point. Why add to the "burden" of a poor family with the addition of girls?

2. Abortions are risky; repeated abortions endanger the health of the mother. When the ban is removed, sex determination tests would be openly carried out instead of furtive practices. People can save themselves from dismal consequences.

Barking Dogs

Q. 4. "Barking dogs seldom bite." But, remember, most of the dogs do not know this proverb. Elaborate on the caution given for the said proverb, narrating a humorous incident you have experienced, heard or can imagine.

Ans. The barking of a dog undeniably frightens people, and matters become worse in case a dog bites a human being. If the dog that bites is a mad one, the bitten person has to take a series of painful injections as a precaution against rabies. Since the barking dogs neither take note of this proverb nor can they be subjected to rules and regulations or expected to possess common sense, it would be best to beware of dogs, whether they are the barking types or the others. Often they quietly catch a human being's leg or arm and inflict a wound necessitating injections which cause fever and upset the human system for several days. The caution given in the statement is, therefore, fully warranted.

Animals, including dogs and foxes (which also bark), cannot of course read or think before they bite. So anyone who just ignores barking dogs in the belief that they will not bite is deluding himself or herself. There are cases, it is said, of dogs whose bark is worse than their bite (this is soul-chilling). The proverb refers to a person who is ill-tempered but not dangerous. A mad, infected dog is however both bad tempered as

well as dangerous. Once a person gets bitten by a barking or other dog, it would be futile to complain to the dog owner (or to get the guilty dog punished) for the consequences of a bite have to be borne in any case. But there are hundreds of cases of dogs having saved their masters through timely barks and bites against intruders, deceits and murderers.

I have suffered heavily because I took a handsome woman at her word. While out for a walk and taking the dog with her, she assured me when her dog barked at me that the dog would not bite. I tried to frighten the dog away but the supposedly domesticated animal caught my left leg and inflicted a deep wound on it. Since the wound started bleeding, I had to go to a hospital and take injections in the abdomen. These pricks were of course painful. It was no use my rebuking the pretty lady whose assurance that the dog was "safe" had misled me. It was all my own fault. I should not have been misled by a pretty face; perhaps I would not have taken the dog owner at her word if she had been an ugly and haggard woman. Such is human weakness, a pretty face can easily mislead and misguide a young man. But beauty and sensibility sometimes go together.

I remember another incident that happened some weeks ago. While taking her tiny but apparently angry dog out for a walk, a comely girl made it a point to warn everyone who tried to tease the dog that both distemper and rabies almost always prove fatal. Rabies, caused by an infected dog through a bite, is most dreaded because it can be passed on to human beings. A person infected by rabies behaves like an insane individual.

Distemper, an expert told me the other day, is seldom curable; it is a disease of the respiratory and nervous system. So when I committed the folly of throwing a stone at a dog, I ran a great risk. It was just by chance that I survived the dog's bite; if I had not, I might not have been alive now to answer this odd question on barking dogs.

Notes on Current Affairs

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

♦ INDIA-RUSSIA POLITICAL TREATY ♦ INDIA-PAK N-RACE? ♦ PRESIDENT CALLS FOR MORATORIUM ♦ ORDINANCE CUTS CAMPAIGN PERIOD ♦ SHAPE OF PARTIES IN PARLIAMENT ♦ BOFORS SCANDAL "DEAD" ♦ DELIMITATION AND POLL REFORMS ♦ MORE N-POWER FOR INDIA ♦ INDIA RECOGNISES ISRAEL ♦ CRITERIA FOR JOBS NOT YET ♦ CENTRAL RULE ENDS IN MEGHALAYA ♦ PM'S STRESS ON INDO-PAK COOPERATION ♦ NEW LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN ♦

India-Russia Political Treaty

INDIA and Russia have finalised a new political treaty and signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on trade and supplies of defence and power generation equipment. This followed the three-day talks between high-level delegations of the two countries in mid-January. The political treaty contains elements of the 1971 Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty while the memoranda on trade, defence and power equipment supplies have been structured to allow flexibility to meet changes in the two countries' economies.

On the rupee-rouble exchange rate the object of the discussions was to make an assessment of the new exchange rate on a realistic basis. A draft political treaty has been received from Ukraine as well.

The treaty conforms to the new situation. Besides some elements of the Indo-Soviet treaty, it has a reference to the Delhi Declaration signed by the late Rajiv Gandhi and the former Soviet President, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov. The finalisation of the political treaty is a positive response from India to the Russian President, Mr Boris Yeltsin's suggestion for such an arrangement.

The Indian Prime Minister's letter to Mr Yeltsin has two important elements, one is that India accepts Russia as a successor State, subject to terms it works out with other former Soviet republics, and the other an invitation to Mr Yeltsin to visit India at his earliest con-

venience. Mr Yeltsin has accepted the invitation.

India-Pak N-race?

THE Central Intelligence Agency director, Mr Robert Gates, has contended that both India and Pakistan have nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes and are now going chemical as well. While they may not have assembled the weapons for stockpiling for safety reasons, they have all the parts for a nuclear weapon and the means to deliver them, Mr Gates told Senator John Glenn's sub-committee on non-proliferation in January. He said, "In South Asia, the arms race between India and Pakistan is a major concern. Not only do both countries have nuclear weapon and ballistic missile programmes, they have recently pursued chemical weapons. These programmes are particularly worrisome because of constant tension and conflict in Kashmir."

Mr Gates expressed concern over a Soviet nuclear brain-drain to countries like India. He had heard rumours that Pakistan was aiding Iran in nuclear matters but the CIA had not independently verified these reports. He felt that nuclear weapons could be assembled quickly. Both countries have combat aircraft that could be modified to deliver them in a crisis.

"Both have publicly agreed to certain confidence-building measures such as not attacking each other's nuclear facilities and are hopeful that the continuing dialogue would bear fruit.

Mr Gates promised to plant more CIA agents to monitor nuclear proliferation and chemical and biological weapons proliferation worldwide. Most Soviet scientists who want to emigrate probably would prefer to settle in the West but the West probably cannot absorb all of them.

Nearly one million Soviet citizens were involved in the nuclear weapons programme one way or the other and probably a thousand or two thousand have the skills to make nuclear weapons.

President calls for Moratorium

PRESIDENT R. Venkataraman on January 25 said there was an imperative need for a voluntary moratorium on all "bandhs", strikes, lockouts, go-slow and work-to-rule at the national level for at least two years.

"This is a duty which we owe to our own children and progeny", he observed in his customary Republic Day eve broadcast to the nation. It is every citizen's duty to contribute his mite for putting the economy back on the rails. The effort should be to maximise production and ensure its equitable distribution so that the weaker sections are not left to fend for themselves.

Nothing that militates against the fullest utilisation of all existing capacities in agriculture, trade, commerce, communications and banking should be tolerated or encouraged, he said. The President also focussed attention on the problem of population explosion and the scourge of terrorism.

He cautioned against three negative forces which are constantly at work. Terrorism is one, the virus of communal hatred is second and the third is invisible but most corrosive; a pervasive slackening in national dis-

cipline

Bullets and bombs have no place in a democracy where avenues for Constitutional redressal exist. However, he wondered if there was a need to go beyond weeding out the toxic plants of terrorism. We must ensure that the causes and conditions which breed terrorism are eliminated. This would require a more vigorous implementation of land reforms of wasteland development, reduction of disparities and provision of adequate employment opportunities for our youth, he suggested.

The President said it was shameful and a cause for sorrow that it had not been possible to prevent communal and caste violence in different parts of the country. Very often, he added, clashes are caused by something very trivial and yet it leaves a trail of death and destruction.

Ordinance cuts campaign period

PRESIDENT R Venkataraman promulgated on January 19 an ordinance reducing the campaigning period for the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections from a minimum of 20 days to 14 days. Evidently, the campaign period was reduced after assessing the overall law and order situation in Punjab. The ordinance, however, states that the amendment to Section 30 of the Representation of the People Act of 1951 will apply to the entire country.

Mr Narasimha Rao was believed to have urged for a shorter period of campaigning in Punjab to reduce the threat faced by candidates there. Though the army had been deployed in Punjab to assist the civil administration in tackling the menace of terrorism, the Centre was worried that these anti-national forces might make attempts, with help from across the border, to disrupt the election process.

The unamended Section 30 of the RPA specifies that the minimum period for holding poll in an election to the Lok Sabha or Legislative assembly of a State should not be less than 20 days from the last date of withdrawal of candidatures. From time to time, there has been a general

demand for reducing this minimum period.

The Punjab Governor, Mr Surendra Nath and various political parties favoured cutting down the campaign period for security reasons. To make up for reducing the campaign period, political parties in the fray were offered more time in the electronic media to explain their stands. The last Assembly and Lok Sabha polls were held in the State in September 1985, after the Rajiv Gandhi Longowal accord.

Shape of Parties in Parliament

THE composition of the ruling party, the Congress in Parliament is likely to remain largely the same even after the recent by elections and the April, 1992, retirement of one-third of Rajya Sabha members. In fact, the overall Congress strength in the Rajya Sabha will probably be reduced. The Narasimha Government would consequently suffer a setback in respect of numbers. The ruling party is likely to win half the number of seats in the elections to be held in the States following the exit of these members. Its position in the Rajya Sabha, where it is critically dependant on Opposition support may become worse.

In the Lok Sabha, the minority government cannot push through Bills involving constitutional amendments without the Opposition support. Already, the Opposition parties, including the Janata Dal and CPM have threatened not to support the Government any more on account of the stiff economic reforms introduced by it recently. Without the committed Opposition support, the government cannot have its own nominee elected as the next President. The Presidential election is due in July this year.

In all, 70 Rajya Sabha members are due to retire. While the first batch of these MPs quits on April 2, the retirement process will continue till October 21 when the term of the National Conference member from Jammu and Kashmir is due to expire. The Congress no longer enjoys

majority in State Assemblies where election for vacant Upper House seats will be held. The present strength of various parties in the 245-member Upper House is as follows: Congress—108, Janata Dal—25, CPI (M)—17, BJP—17, Janata Dal (S)—15, Telugu Desam—10, DMK—10, CPI—4, AIADMK—4 and the rest, other Opposition parties and independents. The number of MPs of various parties retiring this year is as follows: Congress—36, JD—7, CPI (M)—2, BJP—3, JD(S)—2, TDP—5, DMK—1, AIADMK—3, and the remaining outgoing members belong to Opposition parties and independents.

Following the retirement of 70 members this year, the position of BJP and Janata Dal will probably improve in the Rajya Sabha. Seven seats will be filled from Bihar, where a JD government is in office, 12 seats will be filled from UP, now ruled by a BJP government.

Bofors Scandal "Dead"

THE Bofors gun scandal, which was the focus of public attention in the country for many months, is now apparently buried deep in official records. Reports in the third week of January indicated that the Swedish Government has decided not to make public the confidential record of negotiations between the then Prime Minister, Mr Olof Palme, and Mr Rajiv Gandhi, on the Bofors Howitzer deal as doing so would be harmful to the relations between the two countries. The negotiations in question were those held by the two Prime Ministers when Mr Olof Palme was in New Delhi in connection with the five continents' initiative on world peace and disarmament.

The lone voice in the Cabinet that urged the papers be made public was that of the Defence Minister, Mr Anders Bjork, a Swedish daily reported. The four-party coalition government came to the same conclusion as its predecessor, the Social Democratic Government, that Sweden's relations with India would be hurt if the notes of two Prime Ministers' talks were made public. On the same reasoning, the Government also decided that

details of the talks the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the former Government had with an Indian Government official should not be made public

Delimitation and Poll Reforms

A new Delimitation Commission is to be set up to adjust the Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies on the basis of the latest census. The three-member commission would effect changes in the reserved constituencies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on a rotational basis.

The Government would convene an all-party meeting soon to discuss comprehensive electoral reforms, including State funding of elections. Other subjects on the agenda include issuance of identity cards to voters and measures to minimise the number of independent candidates, particularly the non-serious ones.

The new Delimitation Commission would have three members, two of whom would be judges of either of the Supreme Court or the High Courts, while the Chief Election Commissioner would be ex officio member. The composition of the Commission will be announced shortly.

The existing delimitation of constituencies done by the Delimitation Commission set up under the Delimitation Act 1972, contained many infirmities and defects brought to the notice of the Election Commission by various individuals and organisations.

Certain villages are found as enclaves in some Assembly constituencies due to inadvertence. Inclusion or exclusion of certain areas in or from certain assembly constituencies had caused considerable hardship to the local people. The population figures of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were not exact and they were mere projections by the Registrar-General under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (amendment) Order, 1976. The delimitation work is expected to last at least two years. Continued reservation of certain parliamentary and As-

sembly constituencies for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes for many years had resulted in dissatisfaction and frustration of the public.

More N.-Power for India

THE Nuclear Power Corporation has drawn up ambitious plans to produce 8,200 MW of power in the next 10 years, in addition to the existing generation of 1,540 MW in four atomic power stations in different parts of the country. The country is on the threshold of surging ahead in nuclear power generation.

Bihar, however, is not planning to set up nuclear power plants, as these are more expensive than thermal power stations. Apart from this, the Bihar Government is yet to offer a site for the NPC to set up their project. Bihar is the only supplier of natural uranium for processing at the Hyderabad complex, producing fuel for nuclear power stations. Two units of 220 MW each of the Kakrapar atomic power project, two units each of the 220 MW Kaiga project and the third and fourth units of the Rajasthan atomic power project, which were in their final stages of construction, would be synchronised by the end of 1996. There were also schemes for another extension at Kaiga, which would have four more units of 220 MW each.

Similarly, the Tarapur atomic power plant, which had presently two units of 160 MW each, will be extended by adding two more units of 500 MW each. The Rajasthan atomic power project, having two units of 100 MW and 220 MW, will be enhanced by two units of 500 MW each, besides the two units under construction. Eight units will also be constructed at different places in the country for generating 4,000 MW.

India Recognises Israel

IN a major reversal of its West Asia policy, India on January 29 decided to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel, 41 years after recognising the Jewish State. The decision, which is bound to have far reaching consequences for India's foreign policy, came on the eve of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's visit to New

York for the summit meeting of the U.N. Security Council members.

Among other things, the decision seemed to have been guided by the end of the Cold War between the Super Powers, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and India's growing political ties with the United States.

India had recognised Israel way back in 1951 but did not maintain any presence in the Jewish State, though the Israelis have had a consulate in Bombay for the past few decades to look after its interests in Maharashtra and Karnataka. India's decision to establish full diplomatic relations is a belated one. It marks the end of what is called a dogma and fear of reactions from the Arab World. New Delhi was anxious not to lose Arab support for its stand on Kashmir, and its fear stemmed from the possibility of alienating the Muslims, including those in India.

There were electoral reasons also. Only the BJP among the opposition parties was keen on establishing closer ties with Israel. The situation had lately changed. India is likely to benefit from the move in trade, economic and technical fields. Israel is a highly progressive country and would be ready to enter into agreements in various fields.

Criteria for Jobs Not yet

THE Central Government has not yet formulated the promised economic criteria for job reservation. On January 28 it requested the Supreme Court to grant eight more weeks to spell out the criteria for extending reservations to the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) as well as the poor.

Explaining the method adopted for evolving the consensus, the Additional Solicitor-General said the Centre had written to the State governments to give their views. After getting the feedback, the Centre would convene a "national conference" which would help devise the criteria.

The Constitution Bench, headed by the Chief Justice of India, Mr M.H. Kania, expressed displeasure at the Government's repeated failure to announce the criteria ever since it is-

sued an office memorandum last September stating, among other things, that preference would be given to the poorer sections of the SEBCs

The pro-Mandal lawyers urged the court to vacate the stay on the implementation of the Mandal recommendations because that would force the Government to come up fast. Meanwhile the advocates on both sides have been asked to give a joint list of the issues to be decided by the nine-judge Bench, irrespective of the criteria devised by the Government

At the previous hearing on December 4, the Government had promised to be ready with the criteria by January 25. During the last session of Parliament, the Minister of State for Personnel, Mrs Margaret Alva, announced that the Government was considering Karnataka's Chinnappa Reddy Commission report to lay down the criteria. The office memorandum of last September has taken the proportion of reservations to 59.5 per cent from 49.5 per cent introduced by the VP Singh Government. The extra 10 per cent is for the poor, irrespective of their castes.

Central Rule Ends in Meghalaya

THE fragile political structure in the tiny North-Eastern State of Meghalaya has undergone another change. On February 5 a 20-member Congress-led United Meghalaya Parliamentary Forum coalition ministry, headed by Mr D D Lapang was sworn in, ending the nearly four-months-old Presidential rule in the State.

The two-tier ministry has 19 Cabinet Ministers and one Minister of State. This is undeniably a very large ministry in Meghalaya which has only a small population and a 60-member Assembly.

Meghalaya came under Presidential rule on October 11 last year. The UMPF at the moment has a strength of 32. One seat is vacant. A majority of the members of the newly-installed ministry were members of the previous Congress (I)-led government headed by Mr Purna

A Sangma

The Meghalaya United Parliamentary Party (MUPP) has condemned the "toul means" adopted by the Centre to install a Congress-led ministry in the State. Former Chief Minister and MUPP Chairman B B Lyngdoh contended that President's rule had been imposed by the Centre last October despite the Supreme Court's ruling issued on October 9 putting the then ruling MUPP in a majority with a strength of 30 in a House then only 58 strong. The Centre, he alleged, had violated Article 142 of the Constitution. The Congress had also gone back on the assurance it gave on December 10, 1991, that a popular ministry would be formed by December 16. It is believed that the development in the State had been contrived by the Congress Party which has only 23 members in the House.

P.M.'s Stress on Indo-Pak Cooperation

ON return to New Delhi on February 4 after his six day trip to the USA and Switzerland, Mr PV Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister said we must be mature enough to take the ups and downs in Indo-Pakistan ties without losing sight of the objective of striving for good neighbourliness and cordial relations. That needs cooperation from both sides, it is a kind of two-way traffic", he said.

The Indian Prime Minister's attention was drawn to Pakistan Premier Nawaz Sharif's call for a bandh within hours of the two Prime Ministers' cordial talk at Davos (Switzerland) during which he stressed the importance of solidarity with the people of Kashmir. Mr Rao declined to comment. The Indian Prime Minister said he was least surprised by the occasional discordant notes in Indo-Pakistan relations. "Discordant notes also have their relevance", he said, "because from them one draws conclusions, they are not chance remarks". In fact the discordant notes have to be put in proper perspective in the jigsaw, for drawing conclusions.

On Pakistan's proposal for a five-

nation summit to sort out the nuclear question in South Asia, Prime Minister Rao said he was categorical in explaining India's stand on this issue that it was "inadequate".

Blatant Interference: India regarded the call for a nationwide strike by the Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif, to express solidarity with the people of Kashmir as blatant interference in the country's internal affairs. Mr Sharif's call raised doubts in New Delhi about the sincerity of Islamabad in its commitment to normalise relations between the two neighbouring countries.

A spokesman of the Indian External Affairs ministry deplored Pakistan's action as a design to incite people to violence and militancy. Indian spokesmen have urged Pakistan to abandon its negative approach to this country and warned that the anti Indian propaganda would undermine the on-going bilateral talks.

New Law to Protect Women

A detailed scrutiny has confirmed the widespread impression that the laws to tackle the evils of dowry *sati*, immoral traffic, etc., are ineffective. To give teeth to these laws the Government intends to amend the relevant Acts. The amendments which are to be incorporated into the Dowry Prohibition Act and the Commission of *Sati* (Prevention) Act have been finalised and the Bills for amending these Acts are likely to be introduced in the coming budget session.

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and the Indecent Representation (Prohibition) Act are also being examined and attempts are being made to plug the loopholes. A thorough examination of all these laws showed that the punishment prescribed was not stringent enough and the laws were not being implemented effectively. The amendments to these Acts, it was stated, would remove the basic lacunae.

A multi-pronged programme has also been launched to combat the growing problem of exploitation of adolescent girls by training them for

employment

National panel for women: The Government of India has decided to set up a National Commission for Women under the National Commission for Women Act and also an office of the Commissioner, Resources Development Minister Mr Arjun Singh informed Parliament. The

Commission will investigate matters relating to the constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women, review the existing legislations, look into the complaints and take *suo moto* notice of matters pertaining to the rights of women and advise on the socio-economic development of women.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

◆ **SHARP CUT IN U.S. RUSSIAN N-ARMS** ◆ **WORLDWIDE EFFORT TO HELP C'WEALTH**
◆ **U.N. COUNCIL SUMMIT** ◆ **CHINA ISRAEL TIES** ◆ **LIBYA FORMALLY WITHDRAWS KASHMIR ISSUE** ◆ **S. KOREA SIGNS HISTORIC PACT** ◆ **PAK ENTERS WORLD'S ARMS BAZAAR** ◆ **PAK WOOS ASIAN REPUBLICS** ◆ **U.N. CONFIRMS IRAQ'S BOMB** ◆ **PLEDGE TO MAKE S.E. ASIA N FREE** ◆ **KABUL SEEKS NEW ALLIES** ◆ **W. ASIA PEACE TALKS FRUITLESS** ◆ **AUTONOMY PLAN FOR PALESTINE** ◆ **PAK'S NUCLEAR ADMISSION** ◆ **PAK FACING DISASTER?** ◆ **U.S. REPORT CRITICISES PAK** ◆

Sharp cut in U.S., Russia N-arms

PRESIDENT Bush announced on Jan 29 a dramatic \$ 50-billion defence cut, unilateral reduction of nuclear arms and an offer to cut nuclear arms even further if President Yeltsin was prepared to reciprocate. He proclaimed proudly, "Communism died this year. By the grace of God, America won the Cold War. We are the United States of America, the leader of the West that has become the leader of the world." But when it came to the country's economy, he warned his fellow citizens, "I know we're in hard times."

Among the major weapon systems targeted for cancellation are the Seawolf submarine, the B-2 Stealth bomber after 20 planes are built, and several other strategic modernisation programmes, including the MX ballistic missile and plans to build the mobile Midgetman missile.

To realise the defence cuts of \$ 50 billion, the President is also proposing cuts of \$ 6.6 billion in the current fiscal year, including about \$ 4 billion in reductions of current Defence Department programmes.

Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl welcomed the announcement by President Bush of unilateral cuts in the stocks of US nuclear weapons. The cuts were a "tangible sign that we have reached a new quality in worldwide security policy," Mr Bush's

decision took account of the major changes in Europe and the world. Mr Bush was again showing he could set the pace in international disarmament.

Yeltsin offers major cut: Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced a 10-point disarmament plan, with the objective of liquidating all nuclear, biological and chemical mass destruction weapons. Mr Yeltsin said Russia, as successor to the Soviet Union, would cut the number of strategic nuclear missiles to the level set by the START treaty.

Russia had taken off the alert state about 600 strategic land and sea based nuclear missiles and had sharply cut the production of long-range nuclear bombers. Mr Yeltsin also proposed to set up an international nuclear arms control agency which in the long run should control the whole cycle of nuclear process from mining to the burial of nuclear waste.

Mr Yeltsin also announced that Russia had decided to stop the production of TU-160 and TU-95 heavy bombers, stop the production of long-range air-based and sea-based cruise missiles; and stop programmes to design or modernise several types of strategic offensive weapons. "Conditions have ripened today which make it possible to take a number of major steps in arms cutbacks," Mr Yeltsin said. A part of them are taken on a unilateral basis, the others on a mutual basis.

Worldwide effort to help C'wealth

As a result largely of the U.S. initiative, a global effort is being made to provide economic assistance to the new Commonwealth of Independent States of the former Soviet Union. How much assistance actually materialises is however uncertain.

At the opening of a 48-nation international conference in Washington on how to aid the new Commonwealth of Independent States, U.S. President George Bush said, "Let us pull together to win the peace in this post-Cold War era." The challenge of helping the new republics to avert economic disaster and then to develop as free economies was a global challenge which required a coordinated response from "a global coalition."

The U.S., which had led international development efforts for over 40 years, "cannot and will not falter" this time, declared Mr Bush. A Proposal for \$ 600 million of new technical assistance to the 12 republics was already before the U.S. Congress for approval. At the same time, Mr Bush made it a point to note the contributions of Western Europe and other nations. Germany in particular, had assumed enormous responsibilities while other European nations had already moved in with their efforts. Japan also had made important contributions and commitments and "will be critical to this effort."

If the world did not respond adequately, "We risk a reversal of the historic leap to freedom" taken by Russia, Ukraine and other republics. The battle was really for them to win, but "they cannot win it alone." India does not figure anywhere at the major world gathering. Unconfirmed reports say that India made some inquiries to be included as an invitee but did not succeed. Its absence may reflect its status in the emerging world order.

Aid-Arms check link: The German Chancellor, Mr Helmut Kohl, told the republics of the former Soviet Union that they would continue to receive Western economic aid only if

they convince the West they are honouring international arms control agreements

Mr Kohl for the first time spelt out a link between aid for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and gave assurances that agreements signed by the former Soviet President, Mr Gorbachov would be honoured

"In our talks on Western aid, we must make clear to those responsible in the former Soviet republics that trust is a precondition for help. Nuclear, conventional and chemical weapons should be fully under control and production should not continue in an uncontrolled manner

U.N. Council Summit

THOUGH short of much of its expected glamour, the first UN Security Council summit held on January 31-February 1 this year made some high sounding pronouncements. World leaders attending the summit, including the Indian Prime Minister, the Presidents of the US, Russia and France, the Prime Minister of China and their counterparts from other countries, reaffirmed their commitment to collective security to deal with threats to peace and to reverse acts of aggression

They also pledged to strengthen the UN role in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. They underlined the need for all States to fulfil their obligations to arms control and disarmament and to resolve peacefully all problems threatening or disrupting the maintenance of regional and global stability

The aim of the summit was to set the post-Cold War agenda for the UN. The leaders asked the UN Secretary General to submit his analysis and recommendations on ways of strengthening the capacity of the world body for preceptive diplomacy for peace keeping

Many leaders however had reservations about some aspects of the declaration. The declaration did not touch on reforming the world body structure and improving its financial position

China-Israel ties

THE recent developments in the international arena have led to new alignments. For instance, on January 24 China, an advocate of Palestinian rights, established diplomatic relations with Israel for the first time, opening the way for China to join Middle East peace talks

The Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr David Levy and the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr Qian Qichen, signed a joint communique establishing formal ties. Afterwards, Mr Levy said he hoped formal relations would help reduce the flow of Chinese arms to the Middle East

We have discussed the arms race and know that it is in contrast to the peace process', Mr Levy said. The joint communique states that the two governments had decided to establish relations at the ambassadorial level. Israel recognizes the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government representing the whole of China and Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China"

The two sides agreed to develop friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries and two peoples on the basis of the universally recognized principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence"

China will try to make efforts to push forward the peace process. 'China has good relations with the Arab countries and will try to make efforts'

China has sold missiles to Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia and discussed a sale to Syria. China also has sold other weapons to Arab countries, including Egypt and Libya. Some of the weapons, ironically, have incorporated technology China reportedly purchased from Israel, itself an arms exporter

Libya formally withdraws Kashmir issue

SOWING to strong protests from India, Libya on January 24 formal-

ly withdrew the Kashmir issue from the list of unresolved problems which it wanted a special session of the UN General Assembly to discuss. In its letter, Libya had called for a special session on terrorism and had listed Kashmir among the problems which were causing tension in the world. Other issues listed included the Palestine question, problems of South Africa, minorities in the world, northern Ireland and Cyprus

Immediately after the Libyan letter containing the request was circulated by the United Nations, the Indian Ambassador to the UN, Mr Charekhan, lodged a strong protest with the Libyan Ambassador over the inclusion of Kashmir among unresolved problems. He pointed out that Kashmir is an integral part of India and not a disputed territory, the only problem in the State was terrorism sponsored from across the border. The least Libya could do was to delete reference to Kashmir in the list it had circulated. India had taken the stand that Kashmir was a bilateral problem with Pakistan and said it was a mistake on Libya's part to have included Kashmir as an unresolved issue

S. Korea signs historic pact

THE South Korean Prime Minister, Mr Chung Won-Shik, signed in January a historic non-nuclear agreement, opening the way for a nuclear-free Korean peninsula. Mr Chung signed the milestone accord, initiated by working officials of the two Koreas. The agreement will go into effect during the sixth round of Prime Ministers' talks in the North's capital of Pyongyang on Feb 18-21

The agreement calls for denuclearisation of the heavily armed Korean peninsula, separated into the communist North and the capitalist South since 1945. It bans both Koreas from testing, possessing, producing and deploying nuclear weapons in their territories. The agreement, reached after weeks of intense negotiations, required North Korea to formally renounce its suspected nuclear weapons programme. Experts believe the

North would be able to make a crude atomic bomb as early as 1993.

After initialling the agreement, North Korea announced that it would sign a safeguards agreement with the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency and open its nuclear facilities to outside inspections. The hard-line communist State also agreed to reciprocal, simultaneous inspections of suspected nuclear weapons sites in both Koreas, separate from IAEA inspections.

Pak Enters World's arms Bazaar

UNDER the latest deal, France is to supply 40 Mirage-2000 fighter jets to Pakistan. The agreement, which also includes sale of submarines, minesweepers and radars, was made during the visit of the Pakistani Prime Minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif, to France. With this defence deal, Pakistan has entered the world arms bazaar in a big way. Islamabad's change of shops for its arms purchases comes in the wake of broad hints from Washington that the "10 year long honeymoon in the Pakistan-US relationship is all but over", the "Dawn" commented in an analysis.

Diplomatic sources in Islamabad said the recent visit to the US by the Pakistan army chief, Gen Asif Nawaz Janjua, had failed to break fresh grounds in the normalisation of bilateral relations, which have been under strain for the last 15 months. In October, 1990, Washington halted economic and military aid of over US \$ 560 million on the suspicion that Pakistan was going ahead with its weapon-oriented nuclear programme. Between 1979 and 1989, all the three Pakistan defence services were armed with U.S. weapon systems, creating an additional debt burden of about \$ 1.5 billion. Islamabad had paid another \$ 1.5 billion for the equipment from its own sources.

The warming up of defence ties between Pakistan and France has also been evident from the three missions sent to Islamabad by the makers of Mirage aircraft, for parleys on the modernisation of the existing Mirage fleet with the Pakistan air

force, besides exploring the possibility of striking a Mirage-2000 deal.

Pak woos Asian Republics

PAKISTAN is working out a full package for technical, economic and monetary collaboration to be offered to the Central Asian Muslim States in the near future.

The State Minister for Economic Affairs, who led a delegation on a three-week fact-finding mission to Central Asian States—Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan, Kirgizistan, Turkmenia and Kazakhstan—as well as to Azerbaijan and Russia offered each republic a long-term credit loan for the import of Pakistani light engineering goods. He also offered to send financial experts and managers to help them stabilise their economies.

"The Central Asian market offers an excellent opportunity to the Pakistani business community", he felt. The Central Asian republics are also keen on developing their trade ties and for joint ventures, specially in their transport and rail track sectors, with Pakistan.

U.N. Confirms Iraq's Bomb

THE United Nations has confirmed that Iraq is well on its way to achieving its target of developing a nuclear device after producing sizable quantities of enriched uranium. Completing an inspection of Iraqi nuclear installations and weapon depots, U.N. officials said that given time Iraq could be successful in completing its nuclear programme.

However, UN inspectors failed to find enough evidence of foreign-made components needed to make a nuclear device, allegedly supplied to Baghdad after the commencement of the Gulf war.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Baghdad did possess German equipment for its bomb programme. This was discovered by experts while analysing the rubble of destroyed sites. The evidence was found "consistent" with the quantities procured.

Meanwhile, Iraq confessed to have received German components, needed to build 10,000 centrifuges, which would have expanded its ability to produce enough enriched uranium for three or four nuclear bombs a year. The U.N. labelled this admission as acknowledgement that Baghdad "was pursuing a production-scale programme of uranium enrichment by this method".

The team sent by the IAEA under the auspices of the U.N. was assigned the specified mission of unearthing raw materials and components allegedly sold to Iraq by German companies.

Pledge to make S-E Asia N-free

THE Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has backed efforts to conclude the Uruguay round of trade negotiations on the basis of a compromise drafted by Arthur Dunkel, Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

ASEAN grouping, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, delivered the endorsement in a declaration issued after a two-day summit of its heads of government in Singapore. Mr Dunkel had proposed a compromise to bridge U.S. and European positions on agricultural subsidies which had stalled the trade talks. The summit pledged to make South-East Asia a nuclear weapons-free zone and an area of peace, freedom and neutrality. The top rank ASEAN leaders said in the declaration that with the end of the Cold War the ASEAN should move towards a higher plane of economic and political cooperation to secure regional peace and prosperity.

ASEAN called on all parties in Cambodia to implement the Paris peace agreement and adopt national reconciliation to bring lasting peace, promising to play an active role for the reconstruction of Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos. The leaders said the grouping should establish an ASEAN free trade area using the Common Effective Trade Preferential Tariffs (CEPT) scheme as the main

mechanism within 15 years.

ASEAN urged the world's major trading countries to settle their differences on agriculture and other areas and use the Dunkel draft to work towards an early and successful conclusion of the Uruguay negotiations started in 1986.

The ASEAN summit of six heads of government adopted India as its sectoral partner as per their Ministers' recommendation. Singapore Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng, said India's application to become a sectoral partner in specific areas like trade, investment, science and technology and training was earlier approved by the Foreign Ministers at the summit preparatory meeting.

The leaders ended the summit with a declaration voicing their common stand against the emergence of economic blocks throughout the world, seeking to undermine and erode the fledgling economies of Asia.

Kabul seeks New Allies

DR Najibullah is earnestly working towards a resolution of 10-year old agony. The Afghan Government seems to be set for some change. On January 23 Dr Najibullah spoke about the changes in his Government's international and domestic perceptions in the wake of the break-up of the USSR, and cessation of all US aid to the rebel Mujahideen.

Afghanistan, which was one of the largest beneficiaries of Soviet aid, is once again looking towards Russia and the Central Asian republics to sustain the country's economy. Dr Najibullah said that his government "has taken a series of political, economic and diplomatic initiatives with the Government in Moscow and with the governments in the newly independent Asian republics", to tide over problems of food and fuel shortage and rising inflation.

Following the detente between the US and the former USSR, Dr Najibullah has made attempts to dilute his party's obvious links with the communist ideology, that would have negated any form of contact

with Islamic countries in West Asia. He said that "Afghanistan is willing to have close relations with all neighbouring countries".

About the possibility of Afghanistan coming together with Saudi Arabia and Iran to form a larger bloc against Pakistan, the President said it was in his country's interests to promote "partnership in the region" rather than to resort to "confrontation and the formation of blocs".

Mr Najibullah felt that following the recent changes in the world order, it was in "the national interest of Pakistan to have friendly relations with Afghanistan, so that it can find access to a route to the markets in the Central Asian republics". These economic interests were compelling Pakistan "towards political settlement with Afghanistan".

He pointed out that Pakistan's continued military support to rebels on Afghanistan's borders was leading to unrest. Dr Najibullah called for the setting up of an international monitoring agency under the aegis of the UN "to control the shipment of arms on Afghanistan's borders".

Pak accepts Afghan plan: Pakistan recently announced acceptance of the UN proposal for convening of an Afghan Assembly to decide on the shape of the interim government acceptable to the Afghans. Simultaneously, Pakistan served notice on Mujahideen groups to join the peace process. There are at least four Afghan resistance groups which have put obstacles to the peace process.

Until 1989 Pakistan was earnestly seeking a military victory in Afghanistan and the installation of a fundamentalist government in Kabul. Since then the former UN Secretary-General has announced his five-point peace formula and negative symmetry by which arms aid to combatants on both sides would be halted. Pakistan is now readjusting its policy in accordance with the realities. These include the break-up of the former Soviet Union and the creation of inde-

pendent Muslim States on Pakistan's northern flank.

W. Asia Peace Talks Fruitless

A two-day West Asia peace conference, boycotted by Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon, ended in Moscow on January 29, setting up several working groups for multi-lateral talks. The issues to be considered by the groups include disarmament, water sharing, environment, economic development and refugees.

An expanded Palestinian delegation continued its boycott of the conference on the final day over a dispute about the delegation's composition. The delegation includes representatives from East Jerusalem and exiled groups. But Russia and the USA, co-hosts of the conference, supporting the Israeli stand, told the Palestinians that only representatives from occupied territories of West Bank and the Gaza Strip would be allowed to participate.

The Palestinians stayed away, protesting the restrictions on the composition of their delegation. A Palestinian spokesman contended that the Madrid formula was "unjust". The formula was evolved to start the process at Madrid. The Palestinian delegation set an official memorandum to the co-sponsors of the Moscow meet and proposed two more working groups on Jerusalem and human rights, but no reply was received. That was why the Palestinians could not participate in the proceedings.

Autonomy plan for Palestine

THE Palestinians have presented an autonomy plan for the occupied territories in their bilateral talks at the U.S. State Department with the Israelis. The plan calls for Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, withdrawal of Israeli military forces, their replacement by UN peace-keepers and election of an interim Palestinian government to rule the territories until their final status is decided. Jewish settlements would not be planted any more in the occupied territories, according to the

plan.

It calls for a system centred on an assembly of 180 representatives to be elected under international supervision from among all Palestinians in the territories captured by Israel during the 1967 war. The plan requires all residents of the occupied territories now detained by Israel to be freed to enable participation in the elections.

Once an assembly has been chosen, it would elect a chairman of an executive council, who in turn would choose 20 members to serve under him. This parliamentary government will assume authority over all the people, land and resources now exercised by Israel—until there is a final status agreement.

Israel and Jordan held their first formal substantive peace talks but Israeli officials exchanged bitter accusations with Arabs on terrorism.

Pak's Nuclear Admission

PAKISTAN'S Foreign Secretary Shahryar Khan openly admitted on February 7 that his country had the capacity to assemble at least one nuclear device whenever it desired to do so. This disclosure was made to the "Washington Times". The capability is there, he said. Pakistan had elements which, put together, would become a device.

This is the first time that a Pakistani official has publicly acknowledged the extent of Pakistan's nuclear progress. But, Mr Khan added, Pakistan had pledged not to explode such a device or transfer its nuclear technology to other Islamic States or Third World countries that wanted to obtain it. He claimed that he was speaking on record to "avoid credibility gaps". Previously, Pakistan had repeatedly denied US insistence that it possessed the ability to make nuclear weapons.

It may be recalled that the US Administration had halted 573 million dollars as aid to Pakistan in an attempt to curb its nuclear development programme and has not resumed the aid programme since then. Pakistan, it is officially admitted, had forzen production of

highly enriched uranium and weapons "core", essential to producing bombs. But there was no plan to destroy the parts. The US, the Foreign Secretary contended, must put pressure on India to force a change in policy postures on the US-Pakistan nuclear proposal for de-nuclearisation of the South Asian region.

This could be worked out as part of a regional arms control accord which the US is urging at Islamabad's behest. Otherwise, Mr Khan added, "I foresee no reversal by Pakistan of its policy to keep the components and core we have already made to assemble nuclear bombs.

Pak facing disaster?

THE latest reports from foreign countries show that more Pakistanis than ever before question the direction their country is taking and its place in a changing world. Uncertainty about the future feeds the suspicion that democracy does not work in Pakistan and the military may have to setp in once again.

Corruption permeates the conservative Islamic Government. Human rights activists claim that victimisation of the political opposition is more prevalent than in the darkest days of martial law. The country is awash with guns and sophisticated weapons attracted by the civil war in neighbouring Afghanistan. Tribal wars also continue. Bandits roam the countryside, looting and kidnapping innocent people.

Drug trafficking has become so common that many foreign narcotic agents describe Pakistan as the "new Colombia", which had become notorious for such lawless and dangerous activity.

Besides, never in 40 years has the relationship with the U.S. been so bad. Washington stopped economic and military aid about 18 months ago. The Americans are being pushed closer to India, Pakistan's traditional enemy. Pakistan is looking for new friends. It is courting the newly independent republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States which were formerly a part of the

USSR.

US Report criticises Pak

YET another exposure of the Pakistan Government's excesses against members of the minorities and others in Sindh provinces had come through the US State Department.

According to the State Department's assessment, while there was improvement in some aspects of human rights in Pakistan last year, the situation deteriorated significantly in Sindh provinces where the Chief Minister abused executive and judicial powers to arrest and detain members of the opposition.

The report also holds the Provincial administration liable for its failure to uphold the freedom of the press. It highlights the abuse of the Islamic system by the newly set up courts for speedy trial.

The report lists several cases which include the assassination of a Sunni leader which caused sectarian clashes, abductions and misuse of powers by the police. Several cases have been reported of assaults on women, including the assault on Veena Hayat, a friend of Ms Benazir Bhutto. Over 19000 juveniles have been put in Punjab jails. The accused are seldom tried or punished.

The US reports also states that Pakistan maintains several domestic intelligence services which monitor politicians, political activists, suspected terrorists and suspected foreign intelligence agents. Regarding minorities, the reports mentions the Ahmedis who have been declared non-Muslims by the State.

It was alleged that parents who raise their children as Ahmedis are inciting them to apostasy and are committing a crime entailing capital punishment.

There have been reports of forced conversions, confiscation of Hindu shrines and disruption of prayer services. Christians are also being discriminated against in the public services, the universities and the military.

THE EXAMINER'S GUESS QUESTIONS

Q. Where was the 23rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held?

Ans. Bangalore

Q. Who is Mr Arthur Dunkel?

Ans. He is the Director General of GATT. There has been a big controversy going in political circles of India on the proposals popularly known as Dunkel proposals sent by him for acceptance by India during Uruguay Round trade negotiations.

Q. What is stockinvest?

Ans. This is a new scheme announced by the Indian government under which the money of the applicant, applying for shares, would continue to remain in his account and only to the extent he is successful in obtaining allotment of shares, the stock instrument will be encashed by the company issuing shares.

Q. Name the only brigade of the Indian army which has the President of India as its Colonel-in-Chief?

Ans. The Brigade of Guards. It is the first infantry brigade to be chosen for complete mechanisation—an army term for modernisation in all aspects.

Q. What was the annual rate of inflation for the calendar year 1991 based on monthly average of wholesale price index (base 1981 82 = 100)?

Ans. 13.5 per cent. The annual rate of inflation for 1990 was 9.1 per cent.

Q. What is the purpose of National Renewal Fund (NRF)?

Ans. NRF is a non-statutory fund that would cover the requirements of labour in industries that may have to resort to retrenchment, retaining or redeployment of labour as a result of modernisation and technology upgradation. The fund would also cover the requirements

for providing a social safety net to workers retrenched from side and closed units.

Q. Which country has agreed in principle, recently, to sell 40 Mirage-2000 fighter jets to Pakistan?

Ans. France

Q. Across which river is Asia's second longest cable-stayed bridge, being built?

Ans. Hooghly. The bridge would connect Calcutta with Howrah. Japan has Asia's longest cable-stayed bridge.

Q. India has recently been made sectoral partner of which economic block?

Ans. The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Q. Name the first public sector undertaking to go private?

Ans. Maruti Udyog Limited

Q. Who was the chief guest at 1992 Republic Day Parade?

Ans. Mr Mario Soares, President of Portugal.

Q. Reserve Bank of India has decided to free foreign companies from FERA regulations. What does this mean?

Ans. Freedom from FERA would mean that now the foreign companies would be allowed to open their branches, permit their trade marks to be used freely and to carry on in India any activity of a trading, commercial or industrial nature. They will also be free to borrow money and accept deposits in India. They would be permitted to deal in and acquire immovable property in India, provided the purchase consideration is made in foreign exchange out of remittances from abroad.

Q. What amount of aid for India has been pledged by USA for 1993?

Ans. \$ 127.08 million

Q. What are the main functions

of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)?

Ans. The main functions of SEBI are to provide investor protection, promote the development of the capital market and regulate the functioning of the securities market. It would also regulate the working of collective investment schemes including mutual funds.

Q. What amount has been fetched by the India Development Bonds (IDB) and Foreign Exchange Remittances schemes?

Ans. US \$ 1,750 million (Rs 4,462.50 crore). IDB fetched \$ 753 million and remittances \$ 997 million.

Q. Name the countries which participated in the first ever Security Council summit at New York?

Ans. USA, Britain, France, Russia, China (all permanent members), Ecuador, Venezuela, Cape Verde, Morocco, Belgium, Austria, Hungary, Zimbabwe, India and Japan.

Q. 'Project Elephant', an ambitious effort for conservation of elephants, is to be executed in which States?

Ans. Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Q. What milestone was achieved by Kapil Dev in the Test match played at Perth, Australia on February 3, 1992?

Ans. Kapil Dev claimed his 400th Test victim, a milestone only crossed by Sir Richard Hadlee of New Zealand.

Q. With which European multinational has National Thermal Power Corporation signed a joint venture agreement for constructing massive power plants in India?

Ans. Asea Brown Boveri (ABB).

Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

ARTRAC: Army Training Command.

CIS: Commonwealth of Independent States.

CSCE: Conference on Security and Co-operation Europe.

FERA: Foreign Exchange Regulation Act.

NRF: National Renewal Fund.

NSE: National Stock Exchange.

NSMS: National Stock Market System.

RABMN: Remote Area Business Message Network.

AWARDS

1992 Republic Day Awards

Bharat Ratna: Subhash Chandra Bose (*posthumously*), Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (*posthumously*) and J.R.D. Tata

Padma Vibhushan: Ten prominent persons were honoured with Padma Vibhushan. They are: A.B. Vajpayee, senior leader of BJP; Swaran Singh, former external affairs minister; Aruna Asaf Ali, freedom fighter; V. Shantaram (*posthumously*), film producer and director, Govindbhai Shroff, educationist; K. Narayana Rao, poet; Pt Lakshman Shastri Joshi, philosopher; Dr M.B. Mansoor, classical musician; Ravi Narayan Reddy (*posthumously*); and Dr S. Padmavati, cardiologist.

Thirty four personalities were honoured with Padma Bhushan. Prominent among them were: Film actor and director Girish Karnad, flutist Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Dr Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan (space technology), Mrs Mrinalini Sarabhai (dance), Naushad Ali (film music), Mrs Sonal Mansingh (dance), Talat Mehmood (Hindi film singer), Pt C.R. Vyas (vocal music), Prof Romila Thapar (history) and Bijoy Chandra Bhagwati (public life).

Eighty six prominent persons

were awarded Padma Shri. Prominent among them were: Former Olympic hockey captain Ajit Pal Singh, mountaineer Hukam Singh, athlete Shriram Singh, former actress Jaya Bachchan, BBC representative in India Mark Tully, Biren De (painting), Sister Felisa Garbala (service to leprosy patients), Homi J. Talyarkhan (public life), Mr Joseph Alla Stein (architecture), K.M. Mammen Mapoillai (industrial development), Dr Luis Jose D'Souza (medicine), Intelligence Bureau chief M.K. Narayanan and Mrs Vidyabehn Shah (social work).

Ashok Chakra

THE President has awarded Ashok Chakra, the highest civilian gallantry award, to Capt Sandeep Sankhla, *posthumously*.

Capt Sankhla, of 18 Dogra, laid down his life fighting militants in Jammu and Kashmir in August 1991

Indira Gandhi award for international justice and harmony

THE first Indira Gandhi award for international justice and harmony has been given PLO chief Yasser Arafat.

The award, comprising a silver shield, is instituted by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).

Saraswati Samman

RENOWNED Hindi poet and author Dr Harivansh Rai Bachchan has been selected for the country's highest literary award, Saraswati Samman. The award has been instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation, a charitable literary cultural and social organisation.

The honour carries a cash award of Rs three lakh.

Dr Bachchan had been nominated for the award for the fourth and the last volume of his autobiography titled "*Dashdwar se sapan tak* (1985).

1992 Lata Mangeshkar award

THE Lata Mangeshkar award, 1992 has been given to noted singer, Yesudas.

Instituted by the Madhya Pradesh Government the award is given annually for excellence in creativity, outstanding achievement and dedication to light music. The award carries a citation and an amount of Rs one lakh

B.D. Goenka award for excellence in journalism

MR TN Ninan, editor of the Economic Times, has been named for the B.D. Goenka Award for Excellence in journalism for 1991.

In the Indian language section, the award has gone to Mr P.V. Acharya, former editor of "Kasturi".

Mr Ninan was chosen for his professionalism in providing conceptual leadership to an established newspaper. Mr Acharya, who set new standards in Kannada prose, was selected for his life-long service as an editor, columnist and scholar.

DEFENCE

Sixth Command of Indian Army

THE Indian Army has entered a new era with the raising of the Army Training Command (ARTRAC) at Mhow. With the launching of the new sixth Command, the Indian Army is preparing itself to keep pace with the fast-changing global scenario.

Headed by Lt Gen A.S. Kalkat, SYSM, AVSM, VSM—a soldier with vast experience and a keen insight—the ARTRAC is envisaged to help the Army in maximising their training effectiveness for the challenging tasks in the hi-tech world, and to be better prepared for complex battle field situations in futuristic conflict scenarios.

Many advanced armies have such an organisation to wholly concentrate on standardising and

streamlining their training efforts.

The ARTRAC headquarters is organised in three major branches: Strategy and Operational Doctrine Branch; Training Branch and Operational Logistics Branch—each headed by a Major General. The primary role of ARTRAC is the development of concepts and doctrines covering important activities from strategy to human resource development. The main function of this newly created command will be to work as an integrated defence 'think-tank'.

INS Shalki—First indigenously built submarine-launched

THE first indigenously-built submarine, INS *Shalki* was commissioned by Defence Minister, Sharad Pawar, at Indian Naval Dockyard, Bombay on February 7, 1992.

INS *Shalki* has been constructed at Mazagaon Docks in collaboration with the submarine builder HDW (Germany). It is based on design provided by IKL (Germany). It is the third submarine of SK (submarine killers) class. The other two being INS *Shishumar* and INS *Shankush* (both made in Germany).

INS *Shalki* is a diesel electric submarine with most modern features comparable to the best in the world. It has 1500 tonne displacement capacity and five ballast tanks. The submarine has a length of 61 metres. It has a torpedo room, a combat information centre, a steering stand, a garbage reactor, a data bank and inertial navigational system to give location at any given time.

The submarine has undergone extensive harbour and sea trials. With the commissioning of INS *Shalki*, the Indian Navy will have altogether eighteen submarines.

PERSONS

Azad, Maulana Abul Kalam

HE was one of the stalwarts of India's freedom struggle. He has been honoured with title of Bharat Ratna (*posthumously*). He had opposed partition of India in 1947. In his book *India Wins Freedom*, published in 1958, he had partially blamed Nehru and Patel for the partition of

the country.

Throughout his life he championed the cause of Hindu-Muslim unity.

Bhushan, Bharat

BHARAT Bhushan, the prominent film hero of the 50s, whose forte was portraying legendary figures like *Baiju Bawra* and *Mirza Ghalib* died on January 27, 1992. He was 71.

He made his mark as a hero 1940s with *Chaitanya Mahaprabhu*. Then he made a smooth transition from mythologicals to legendary lovers like *Sohni Mahiwal* to lighter romanticals like *Gateway of India*. He and the late Madhubala were a hit pair in several films. In all he had worked in more than 200 films.

Bose, Subhash Chandra

BETTER known as *Netaji* of Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army). Subhash Chandra Bose has been honoured by the Indian government with a Bharat Ratna (*posthumously*). He was a powerful nationalist leader and was also elected President of the Indian National Congress once. He gained much prominence for organising I.N.A. during the World War II. He is reported to have died in a plane crash in 1945.

Kumar Gandharva

NOTED musician, Kumar Gandharva died on January 12, 1992. He was 67.

He was born as Shivaputrappa Komalimath on April 8, 1924 in Karnataka. His propensity to assimilate the music of the maestros and render them faithfully prompted a swami to call him Kumar Gandharva and the name stuck. At the tender age of five he rendered *Basant rag* of Savai Gandharva, a noted exponent of Kirana *Gharana*. In his eleventh year, he embarked on the road to stardom with a concert in Allahabad.

Kumar Gandharva had a penchant for creating new ragas, based on folk music. He was always an innovator, making his own path without blindly following the beaten track in the name of sticking to tradition.

He was a recipient of *Padma*

Bhushan, Padma Vibushan and Kalidas Samman awards

Tata, J.R.D.

JEHANGIR Ratanji Dadabhoy Tata is the recipient of Bharat Ratna award for 1992.

He was born on July 29, 1904 in Paris to a French mother and an Indian father. When he came to India in 1924 to settle down, he was hardly twenty years old. In 1926 he was made a director of Tata Sons after the death of his father. In 1938, the Tata Sons directors, all senior to him, selected him as their leader, Chairman. And for the next 53 years he was the exceptionally popular "Boss" of the industrial empire of Tatas.

He was the first in India to qualify as a pilot and was granted pilot licence serial No 1 in March 1929. He was founder of Air India which was taken over by the government after nationalisation.

PROJECTS

Gandhar power project cleared

THE Government has approved the setting up of the 650 MW Gandhar gas-based power project Stage I in Gujarat. It is estimated to cost Rs 1860.11 crore.

Of the total estimated cost, a sum of Rs 1656.30 crore has been earmarked for the power station and facilities and Rs 203.81 crore for the associated transmission system, both of which will be executed by the National Thermal Power Corporation.

The project, to be located in Bharuch district of Gujarat, will be implemented with Japanese assistance. It has been allocated 1.5 MCMD of gas from the Gandhar gas field and will operate according to the power demand of the Western region. Its first gas turbine is likely to be commissioned 24 months from the award of the contract for the main plant and equipment and subsequent units at intervals of two months each thereafter.

Big expansion plan for postal services

A project to transmit money orders by satellites is the highlight of a massive modernisation and expansion plan of the postal services to be

launched shortly.

Under the plan a Rs 27-crore project had been initiated to utilise the satellite channels for the transmission of moneyorders. To begin with, 75 stations, including state capitals, would be connected through the satellite. Subsequently, the satellite communication facility would be extended to electronic mail and other services.

A speed post corporation is also proposed to be set up as a separate company operating on commercial terms and profitability. This would speed up the postal operations, especially the handling of bulk mail, and be in tune with the trend world over to move towards corporatisation in the postal administration.

Till the satellite facility becomes available for remote areas, remote area business message network (RABMN) would be utilised for transmission of moneyorders to these areas.

The sorting of mail, which is one of the main causes of delay, would also be mechanised.

For expansion of the postal services a programme had been launched to provide a post office within a three km radius of each village, subject to satisfaction of certain norms relating to population and economic viability.

It has also been decided to provide at least a letter box in each village having population over 1,000. In the second phase, letter boxes would be provided in villages having population exceeding 500.

The organisational structure of the department of posts would be reorganised and decentralised to make it more responsive to new challenges. This would be achieved by redistribution and rationalisation of the postal regions.

There would be a higher level delegation to the field functionaries accompanied with complete accountability for management of their respective postal circles or regions.

India on global map in crystal growth technology

ANNA University, Madras, has successfully grown the high tech

indium phosphide crystal, making India the eighth nation possessing the technology.

Indium phosphide has tremendous potential in opto-electronics and communication.

Unique cable-stayed bridge almost ready

ASIA's second longest cable-stayed bridge across the river Hooghly, which would connect Calcutta with Howrah, is likely to be completed by April 1992.

Once completed, the "Unique" bridge, built on the technique of "dead-load composite system", would provide much-awaited relief to the chronic traffic congestion on the existing Rabindra Setu.

Originally estimated at Rs 57 crore in 1979, when the work began, the 2700 feet main bridge on the river along with 16.5 km long elevated structure on both sides would now cost about a staggering Rs 400 crores.

Although Japan has Asia's longest cable-stayed bridge, the new bridge would be "unique" as it is built on "dead-load composite system", while the bridge in Japan is constructed on "live-load composite system".

SPACE RESEARCH

'Discovery' launch

THE US space shuttle *Discovery* was launched on January 22, 1992 with seven astronauts and an assortment of creatures on board.

Among the specimens that were on board were: roundworms, fruit flies, yeast, bacteria, slime mold, frog eggs and sperm, fetal mouse bones, oat and wheat seedlings, lentil roots, hamster kidney cells and human blood cells.

The idea is to see how plants respond in orbit to varying amounts of light and artificial gravity, and how animal and cell development is affected by weightlessness and space radiation.

The research mission is the first of at least eight shuttle flights planned for 1992.

The crew consisted of a physicist, two physicians and four engineers. One was Canadian, another German

and the rest were from the United States.

The astronauts spent most of their time conducting experiments inside spacelab, a module in the cargo bay. Human medical tests were conducted to gain understanding of space motion sickness and back pain, frequently suffered by astronauts in orbit.

Such knowledge is vital as NASA heads towards the first two-week shuttle flight in 1992 summer and considerably longer stints aboard the planned space station.

Discovery of new planet a mistake

BBRITISH astronomers, who claimed two months ago to have discovered a new planet have now admitted that the planet does not exist.

In a report published in the British journal *Nature* they said their earlier inference was a mistake. Reprocessing the data revealed there was no planet.

MISCELLANY

Mongolia changes name

MONGOLIA has officially dropped "People's Republic" from its name and will formally adopted new constitution on January 13, 1992.

The Central Asian nation's legislature adopted by a majority the name "State of Mongolia", removing one of the last remnants of a Stalinist past.

Mongolia held its first democratic elections in 1990, ending 69 years of communist rule and adopting a radical programme to privatise its economy.

Tass ceases to exist, RITA is in

THE Tass news agency, official media voice of the former Soviet Union for nearly seven decades, has been merged into a new agency called RITA.

The Russian president, Mr Boris Yeltsin, by decree issued on January 22, 1992, ordered that the Russian Information Telegraph Agency or RITA would group both Tass and the semi-official Novosti agency and be subordinate to the Russian government, president and parliament.

SPORTS

BADMINTON

National Championships

Men's singles: Rajeev Bagga (Maharashtra)

Women's singles: Manjusha Pawangadkar (Maharashtra)

Women's doubles: Manjusha and Archana Deodhar (Maharashtra)

Mixed doubles: Sindhu Gulati and Harjeet Singh (Railways)

46th Inter-State Championship

Twenty-eight year-old Madhumita Bisht, queen of Indian Badminton, spearheaded Indian Railways to a 2-1 victory over traditional rival Maharashtra to retain the Chadha Cup for women for the third time in a row in the Puma Carona 46th Inter-State badminton championships

BASKETBALL

42nd National Championship

Railways' supremacy in the national basketball scene was proved beyond doubt when they retained the Edward William Todd Memorial Trophy for the men's event for the fifth consecutive year

Railways also won the women's title beating Punjab 78-48

BRIDGE

National Championship

R Krishnan and IPJ Albuquerque, both from Madras, annexed the Kakinada Trophy having won the Life-masters category of pairs event with 342 points in the National Bridge Championship

Dr PD Boaz from Madras, and Arun Biswas from Calcutta, in their maiden partnership, claimed the Sundaram Trophy for the pairs event of the National Masters with 141 points

CHESS

Dubai Gold Cup

Jakarta annexed the Dubai Gold Cup with a tally of 25.5 points at the end of the final round of the Asian Cities team chess championship

Melbourne also got 25.5 points but lost the championship title on tie-break to Jakarta

Jamshedpur defeated Doha 4-0 to take the fourth position in the championship

National 'A' title

Anupama Gokhale (Maharashtra) regained the National 'A' chess title after one year. In the penultimate round, Anupama quickly agreed for a draw against Krishna Jahangirdar by playing eight moves of modern defence

Reggio Emilia Chess tournament

Indian grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand won the star-studded Reggio Emilia Chess Tournament when he beat Alexander Belyavsky of Ukraine in the ninth and final round

World champion Garry Kasparov, who drew his final match with Alexander Khalimov, was second

CRICKET

Duleep Trophy

Spinner Maninder Singh and medium pacer Vivek Razdan bowled North Zone to their ninth final triumph in the Duleep Trophy Tournament

West Zone, chasing a victory target of 457, crashed to a paltry total of 220 off 83 overs. North's 236-run win over West was the one of the most humiliating for West in its Duleep history

Deodhar Trophy

South Zone regained the Deodhar Trophy after 10 years when they registered a comfortable 36-run victory over Central Zone in the final

One-day World Series Championship

Despite a gallant 61 by an injured Ravi Shastri and a heroic 69 from the consistent Sachin Tendulkar, India were beaten by Australia, by six runs, in a close finish in the second leg of the best-of-three final of the one-day World Series cricket competition

Having won the first leg in

Melbourne by 88 runs, Australia became champions for the fifth time since the inception of the competition in the late 1970s. India were losing finalists to them on their last tour as well, in 1985-86

Australia-India Test Series

Fourth match: Australia wore down spirited resistance from Mohammed Azharuddin, who hit a century, and Manoj Prabhakar to defeat India by 38 runs in the fourth cricket played at Adelaide

The win gave Australia an unbeatable 3-0 in the five Test series

Third Test: The third Test, played at Sydney, ended in an exciting finish. Australia, who needed 170 to avoid an innings defeat, were seven wickets down when they cleared the deficit in the eleventh over of the mandatory 15

India were denied win by a 50-run seventh-wicket partnership between Allan Border and Mervin Hughes

Shastri emulates Mankad: In the Sydney Test, Ravi Shastri established a number of records. When he reached 175, Shastri became India's highest scorer against Australia surpassing Sandeep Patil's 174 at Adelaide in 1980-81. When he reached 188, he bettered his previous highest Test score—187 against England in the 1990 Oval Test

With his 206, Shastri is now the ninth Indian to have recorded double century in Tests. Sunil Gavaskar holds the records for having scored four—three against the West Indies (220 at Port-of-Spain, 1970-71, 205 at Bombay 1978-79 and 236 not out at Madras, 1983-84) and one against England (221 at the Oval in 1979)

In Australia's second innings, Shastri claimed 4 for 45 runs to emulate Vinoo Mankad, who had also given a similar all round performance in the 1955-56 Madras Test against New Zealand. Mankad as an opener, had posted 181 in

the first innings and in New Zealand's second innings, claimed 4 for 65.

In the 115 years of Test cricket, only two players have achieved the distinction of a double century and five wickets in an innings in the same Test.

Fifth Test: In what could be described as one of their worst debacles, India were bowled out for a humiliatingly low score of 141 to be beaten by a staggering 300 runs in the fifth and final Test against Australia, played at Perth.

Australia won the series 4-0, a margin as wide as they have ever achieved in a rubber against India.

From the Indian viewpoint it could be considered their biggest flop since they were whitewashed by England in 1974.

Kapil Dev reaches landmark

Playing in his 115th Test match, Indian all-rounder Kapil Dev went on to claim his 400th Test victim on February 3, 1992, a milestone only crossed by Sir Richard Hadlee of New Zealand.

Kapil Dev, who turned 33 on Jan 6, achieved the landmark when he trapped Australian opener Mark Taylor leg-before in the last session of the third day of the final Test at Perth.

During the 1991-92 tour of Australia, Kapil Dev had reached another milestone when he became the first bowler to have taken more than 200 wickets in one-day cricket.

Kapil Dev, who began his Test career in 1978 during the tour of Pakistan, now has a lone target in front of him—the all-time haul of 431 wickets by Sir Richard Hadlee of New Zealand.

In January 1992 issue on page 395 and 400 the total wickets taken by Sir Richard Hadlee was printed as 423 instead of 431. The mistake is regretted.

Editor]

New Zealand-England Test Series

Second Test: England quickly completed the formality of taking New Zealand's last two wickets on the final morning of the second Test to win the match and the three-Test series. New Zealand, 203 for 8 overnight, were all out for 214 to give England a win by 168

runs.

It was England's first win in a series in New Zealand since 1975 and for the hosts their first home series defeat since 1979.

Pakistan-Sri Lanka One-day Series

Javed Miandad cast off his ailing fortunes by blasting an unbeaten 115 off 103 balls, in the Hyderabad match, to spur Pakistan to a winning 3-0 lead in their one-day cricket series against Sri Lanka.

Miandad's century in the third of five internationals lifted Pakistan to 241 for three from their 40 overs and they secured a victory by 59 runs after restricting the touring team to 182 for nine.

Pakistan won the first one-dayer at Sargodha by eight wickets and the second at Karachi by 29 runs.

FOOTBALL

Rajiv Gandhi International Soccer Tournament

Romania, displaying all-round supremacy, lifted the glittering Gold Cup drubbing South Korea 3-0 in an eventful final of the first Rajiv Gandhi International Soccer (under 21) Tournament at the JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur.

HOCKEY

Scindia Cup

Indian Airlines trounced defending champions Punjab and Sind Bank 5-2 to win the 68th All-India Scindia Gold Cup hockey tournament.

SQUASH

Asian Women's Championship

Singapore's top-seeded Mah Li Lian completed a hat-trick of victories by successfully defending her title in the Asian women's squash championships at the glass-back Cricket Club of India Courts at Bombay. Bhuvaneshwari Kumari of India became the first Indian to figure among the medallists at the continental competition. She came third.

Malaysia won the Asian women's squash title for the first time, swamping Sri Lanka 3-0 in their final league tie.

India failed to improve upon the third-place position they had at the 1990 Calcutta championships. Defending champions Singapore clinched the second spot with a

resounding 3-0 win over the hosts.

TABLE TENNIS

35rd National Championships

Defending champion Kamlesh Mehta not only forced top seed Sujay Ghorpade of Maharashtra into submission but also entered the record books by taking the men's title for the seventh time. Kamlesh won in three straight games 21-16, 21-17, 21-10.

Niyoti Shah of Tamil Nadu came in for a bit of tough time only in the third game of the match but maintained her winning streak and took the title, piping top-seed Radhika of Railways, 22-20, 21-15, 6-21, 21-14.

Other Finals

Women's doubles: Sujata Babras and Shilpa Takalkar (Maharashtra).

Men's doubles: S. Raman and Jacob Premkumar (Tamil Nadu).

Mixed doubles: S. Raman and B. Bhuvaneshwari (Tamil Nadu).

European Cup

Germany won the European nations cup men's team table tennis championship for the second year in succession, beating France 3-2 in the final.

TENNIS

Australian Open

Jim Courier, blasting winners from the baseline almost at will, overcame top-seeded Stefan Edberg's serve-and-volley game to take the Australian Open men's final 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

The victory was the second Grand Slam title for the second-seeded Courier.

World number one Monica Seles kept her Australian Open Tennis Crown with straight sets thrashing of seventh-seeded American Mary-Joe Fernandez.

VOLLEYBALL

National Championships

Tamil Nadu men and Railways women retained their respective national titles in the 40th national volleyball championships.

Tamil Nadu took less than an hour to dispose of Andhra Pradesh 15-8, 15-2, 15-5 in a tame final.

In the women's final, Railways came from behind to beat a fighting Tamil Nadu 6-15, 15-7, 15-9, 15-7.

Appointments Etc

Appointed; Elected Etc

Zhelyu Zhelev: President of Bulgaria, he has won a new five-year term in run off voting in Bulgaria's first popular presidential election.

Egon Klepsch: A German Christian Democrat, he has been elected as president of the 518-member European Parliament.

Tiit Viialu: He has been appointed the new Prime Minister of Estonia

Dr M Chenna Reddy: He has been appointed as the Governor of Rajasthan.

D D. Lapang: He is the new Chief Minister of Meghalaya. He heads a 20-member Congress(I)-led coalition ministry.

Harkishan Singh Surjeet: He has been elected General Secretary of Communist Party of India (Marxist).

I.P. Khosla: He has been appointed as India's Ambassador to the Netherlands.

Shashi Kant Kapoor: He has been appointed Director-General of All India Radio.

Resigned

Chadli Bendjedid: President of Algeria.

Edgar Savisaar: Prime Minister of Estonia.

Distinguished Visitors

Mario Soares: President of Por-

tugal. He is the first head of State of Portugal to visit India.

Dr Censu Tabone: President of Malta.

Yasser Arafat: President of Palestine.

Douglas Hurd: Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Secretary of Britain.

Anil Baichoo: Minister of Trade and Shipping of Mauritius.

M. Mottaki: Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran.

Larry Pressler: US Republican Senator and author of the controversial Pressler amendment.

Lt Gen Johnny Corns: The Commanding General of the United States Army's Pacific Command.

Ismat Abel Meguid: Secretary-General of the Arab league.

Died

Kumar Gandharva: The prominent vocalist of the Hindustani classical music. He was 69.

Prof A.K. Dasgupta: The doyen of South Asian economists. He was 89.

Bharat Bhushan: Prominent film personality of the Indian cinema. He was 71.

Mohan Choti: Popular film comedian and producer-director. He was 52.

26—The BJP President, Mr Murli Manohar Joshi, unfurls the National Flag at the heavily-guarded Lal Chowk in Srinagar.

28—Palestinians boycott the West Asia Peace talks being held at Moscow.

29—India and Israel decide to establish full diplomatic ties.

—US President, Mr George Bush announces \$ 50 billion defence cut, unilateral reduction of nuclear arms and an offer to cut nuclear arms even further if the Russian President, Mr Boris Yeltsin was prepared to reciprocate.

—The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopts India as its sectoral partner.

30—USA freezes aid to Pakistan for the third year in succession as a punishment for its nuclear weapon programme.

FEBRUARY

1—The first-ever Security Council Summit is held at New York.

—Formal ceasefire comes into effect in the 12-year Civil War in El Salvador.

5—Seventy people are killed and more than 300 arrested in the failed coup attempt in Venezuela.

—Four-month-old President's rule ends in Meghalaya with the swearing-in of a 20-member Congress(I)-led coalition Government.

7—Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Mr Shahryar Khan, admits that his country has components and know-how to assemble at least one N.-bomb.

9—Pakistan orders its army and the occupied Kashmir Government to prevent the JKLF-led Kashmiri militants from crossing the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on February 11.

10—The Punjab Government invokes TADA against 60 leaders of six panthic organisations spearheading poll boycott.

EVENTS

JANUARY

10—The 23rd International Film Festival opens in Bangalore.

13—Special operations by Army against ULFA in Assam are suspended as a matter of goodwill to facilitate the process of negotiations.

16—India and UK agree on terrorists extradition treaty.

—Steel prices are decontrolled.

17—Key Akali factions decide to boycott Punjab polls.

19—France agrees in principle to sell 40 Mirage-2000 planes to Pakistan.

24—Blast at Police Headquarters in Srinagar injures DGP, Mr J.N. Saxena and four senior security officers.

—China establishes diplomatic ties with Israel.

QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

The questions given under this feature were set in the BSRB Gramin Bank examination held on the 15th December, 1991.

We thank Sarvshri Ajay Kumar Singh, Gautam Kumar Singh and Ranjan Kumar for sending these questions.

What should be in place of the question mark (?) in the following questions?

1. $1\frac{1}{4} + \frac{2}{3} = ?$
(a) $1\frac{1}{4}$ (b) $1\frac{1}{12}$ (c) $\frac{7}{12}$ (d) $1\frac{11}{12}$
(e) None of these
2. ?% of 46 = 16.1
(a) 25 (b) 34 (c) 45 (d) 35
(e) None of these
3. 11% of 90 = ?% of 1
(a) 9.9 (b) 9 (c) 9.9 (d) 0.99
(e) None of these
4. $8692 - 4739 - 79 = ?$
(a) 4032 (b) 3953 (c) 4948 (d) 3874
(e) None of these
5. $3.23 \times 0.03 = ?$
(a) 0.0969 (b) 9.69 (c) 0.099 (d) 0.969
(e) None of these
6. $0.3469 + 41.7 + 1.65 = ?$
(a) 43.6969 (b) 42.4669 (c) 42.3541
(d) 42.6969 (e) None of these
7. $123 \times 20 - 16 = ?$
(a) 244 (b) 2460 (c) 2444 (d) 2434
(e) None of these
8. $4256 + 1639 + 307 = ?$
(a) 8965 (b) 6202 (c) 6102 (d) 6192
(e) None of these
9. $16\frac{2}{3}\%$ of 198 = ?
(a) 66 (b) 33 (c) 132 (d) 11
(e) None of these
10. $8458 - 4378 + 1419 = ?$
(a) 2661 (b) 4080 (c) 5499 (d) 5599
(e) None of these
11. $4267 + 1936 + ? = 7911$
(a) 6203 (b) 3644 (c) 5580 (d) 2331
(e) None of these
12. $7.48 - 3.065 + 1.35 = ?$
(a) 3.065 (b) 5.775 (c) 5.765 (d) 5.45
(e) None of these
13. $12.574 + 4.029 + ? = 26$
(a) 16.603 (b) 9.397 (c) 9.307 (d) 17.455

- (e) None of these
14. $8602 - 4514 = ?$
(a) 4198 (b) 4088 (c) 4098 (d) 4188
(e) None of these
15. $4\frac{2}{3} - 2\frac{1}{6} = ?$
(a) $2\frac{1}{2}$ (b) $2\frac{1}{3}$ (c) $2\frac{1}{6}$ (d) $2\frac{1}{18}$
(e) None of these
16. $9.04 + 9.4 - 6.4 = ?$
(a) 12.0 (b) 12.04 (c) 12.004 (d) 12.4
(e) None of these
17. $22.70 + 0.1135 = ?$
(a) 0.02 (b) 0.2 (c) 20 (d) 2
(e) None of these
18. $407000 + 4070 = ? - 47$
(a) 147 (b) 53 (c) 1047 (d) 953
(e) None of these
19. $\frac{? \times 40 \times 21}{30} = 14$
(a) 0.5 (b) 2 (c) 0.05 (d) 0.2
(e) None of these
20. $6794 - ? = 5097$
(a) 1707 (b) 1797 (c) 697 (d) 1697
(e) None of these
21. $476 + 2639 + 29 + 4028 = ?$
(a) 7162 (b) 7072 (c) 7272 (d) 7172
(e) None of these
22. $0.78 - 0.0078 = ?$
(a) 0.7732 (b) 0.7778 (c) 0.6722 (d) 0.772
(e) None of these
23. $0.014 \times 0.14 = ?$
(a) 0.0196 (b) 0.00196 (c) 0.000196
(d) 0.00169 (e) None of these
24. $5687 + 4358 + 3959 = ?$
(a) 13004 (b) 13994 (c) 14004 (d) 14904
(e) None of these
25. $7.46 - 1.78 - 3.59 = ?$
(a) 9.27 (b) 2.19 (c) 2.09 (d) 3.09
(e) None of these
26. $51 \times 22 + 52 = ?$
(a) 1122 (b) 3774 (c) 1070 (d) 1174
(e) None of these
27. $\frac{9 \times 3 - 2}{9 - 4 \times 2} = ?$
(a) 25 (b) 0.9 (c) 2.5 (d) 9
(e) None of these

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

28. $\frac{\sqrt{7}}{180} = 0.5$
 (a) 810 (b) 360 (c) 0.81 (d) 90
 (e) None of these
29. $5691 - (1703 + 2469) = ?$
 (a) 1519 (b) 4925 (c) 6457 (d) 1529
 (e) None of these
30. $4.62 + (4.62 - 2.42) = ?$
 (a) 2.01 (b) 2.31 (c) 2.2 (d) 2.11
 (e) None of these
31. $3.2 \times 4.5 - 3.2 = ?$
 (a) 14.4 (b) 4.5 (c) 4.16 (d) 11.2
 (e) None of these
32. $2.80 - 0.08 + 0.2 = ?$
 (a) 13.6 (b) 0.136 (c) 2.76 (d) 1.36
 (e) None of these
33. $0.201 + 0.67 \div ?$
 (a) 0.03 (b) 3.0 (c) 0.3 (d) 0.003
 (e) None of these
34. $\frac{3}{8} \times \frac{4}{5} \div \frac{5}{6} = ?$
 (a) $\frac{1}{4}$ (b) $2\frac{7}{9}$ (c) $\frac{3}{5}$ (d) 4
 (e) None of these
35. $\frac{17^2 - 9^2}{10^2 - 6^2} = ?$
 (a) $3\frac{1}{4}$ (b) $6\frac{1}{2}$ (c) $\frac{13}{8}$ (d) $3\frac{1}{8}$
 (e) None of these
36. $2464 + 22 + 55 = ?$
 (a) 32 (b) 167 (c) 302 (d) 112
 (e) None of these
37. $6\frac{1}{2} + 4\frac{1}{3} = ?$
 (a) 1.2 (b) 3.5 (c) 1.25 (d) 1.05
 (e) None of these
38. $\frac{1.2 \times 4.8 - 1.6}{0.2 \times 1.6} = ?$
 (a) 1.3 (b) 12 (c) 0.13 (d) 1.2
 (e) None of these
39. $37\frac{1}{2}\%$ of 456 = ?
 (a) 126 (b) 342 (c) 304 (d) 171
 (e) None of these
40. $12^2 + 18 + 12 = ?$
 (a) 4.8 (b) 30 (c) 20 (d) 4
 (e) None of these
41. $\frac{3+4 \times 2 - 5}{5+3 \times 2 - 7} = ?$
 (a) $2\frac{1}{4}$ (b) 1 (c) $1\frac{1}{2}$ (d) $\frac{2}{3}$
 (e) None of these

42. $\frac{2}{3} \times 2\frac{2}{5} \times \frac{3}{4} = ?$
 (a) 1.5 (b) 0.2 (c) 2.2 (d) 1.2
 (e) None of these
43. $\frac{7 \times 32}{8 \times 21} = ?$
 (a) $1\frac{1}{3}$ (b) $\frac{21}{32}$ (c) $\frac{3}{4}$ (d) $1\frac{1}{4}$
 (e) None of these
44. $\frac{\sqrt{169}}{2} \times \frac{39}{\sqrt{196}} \times \frac{14}{169} = ?$
 (a) 13 (b) 19.5 (c) 1.5 (d) 3
 (e) None of these
45. $2304 \div 48 + 16 = ?$
 (a) 48 (b) 3 (c) 768 (d) 256
 (e) None of these
46. $208 \div 16 = 26 \times ?$
 (a) 0.5 (b) 13 (c) 2 (d) 0.2
 (e) None of these
47. $2184 \div ? = 26 \times 6$
 (a) 156 (b) 504 (c) 78 (d) 14
 (e) None of these
48. $\sqrt{64} \times ? = \frac{1}{4} \times 8$
 (a) 0.4 (b) 0.25 (c) 32 (d) 0.2
 (e) None of these
49. $? + 18 = 360 \div 12$
 (a) 12 (b) 6 (c) 144 (d) 30
 (e) None of these
50. $9^2 - ? = 99 - 81$
 (a) 18 (b) 63 (c) 36 (d) 81
 (e) None of these

ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1. (d) | 2. (d) | 3. (e) | 4. (d) |
| 5. (a) | 6. (a) | 7. (c) | 8. (b) |
| 9. (b) | 10. (c) | 11. (e) | Ans. 1708 |
| 12. (c) | 13. (b) | 14. (b) | 15. (a) |
| 16. (b) | 17. (e) | Ans. 200 | 18. (a) |
| 19. (a) | 20. (d) | 21. (d) | 22. (d) |
| 23. (b) | 24. (c) | 25. (c) | 26. (d) |
| 27. (a) | 28. (e) | Ans. 8100 | 29. (a) |
| 30. (e) | Ans. 2.1 | 31. (d) | 32. (c) |
| 33. (c) | 34. (e) | Ans. $\frac{9}{25}$ | 35. (a) |
| 36. (b) | 37. (c) | Ans. $1\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| 38. (c) | Ans. 13 | | |
| 39. (d) | | | 40. (c) |
| 41. (c) | | | 42. (d) |
| 43. (a) | | | 44. (c) |
| 45. (b) | | | 46. (a) |
| 47. (d) | | | 48. (b) |
| 49. (c) | | | 50. (b) |

- (A) PQSR
- (B) SQPR
- (C) PQRS
- (D) RPSQ

18 1 The basic function of all education is to increase the survival prospects of the group

P There have been times when the group disappeared

Q If not, it doesn't

R If this function is fulfilled, the group survives

S Generally, this resulted from changes in the kinds of threats the group faced

6 The threats changed, but the education did not, and so the group disappeared

- (A) PRQS
- (B) RQPS
- (C) PSRQ
- (D) RQSP

19 1 Evolution is not progress

P And yet, for all their differences, it is not wholly wrong to identify evolution with progress

Q As a noted scientist had said, the tape worm in its inglorious lot in man's intestine is an outcome of evolution as well as the lark at heaven's gate

R Three hundred million years after the first land creatures crawled out of the sea, the one-celled amoeba is man himself

S The physical facts of evolution betray such advance

6 For, like progress, evolution does, over the long run, imply betterment

- (A) SRQP
- (B) SPQR
- (C) RPSQ
- (D) QPSR

20 1 But at that moment I glanced around at the crowd that had followed me

P It was an immense crowd, 2000 at the least and growing every minute

Q They were watching me as they would watch a conjurer about to perform a trick

R I looked at the sea of yellow faces above the garish

clothes—faces all happy and excited over this bit of fun, all certain that the elephant was going to be shot

S It blocked the road for a long distance on either side

6 They did not like me, but with the magical rifle in my hands I was momentarily worth watching

- (A) PSRQ
- (B) SQPR
- (C) RQPS
- (D) SPQR

Directions In questions 21 to 25 out of the four alternatives choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.

21 One who is honourably discharged from service

- (A) Retired
- (B) Imertus
- (C) Relieved
- (D) Emancipated

22 One who cannot be corrected

- (A) Incurable
- (B) Incorrigible
- (C) Hardened
- (D) Invulnerable

23 The study of ancient societies

- (A) Anthropology
- (B) Archaeology
- (C) History
- (D) Ethnology

24 A small shop that sells fashionable clothes, cosmetics etc

- (A) Store
- (B) Stall
- (C) Boutique
- (D) Booth

25 One who is in charge of a museum

- (A) Curator
- (B) Supervisor
- (C) Caretaker
- (D) Warden

Directions In the following passage (26 to 35) some of the words have been left out. First read the passage over and try to understand what it is about. Then fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given and tick mark (✓) the answer.

His talk used to be full of wit and humour. He liked reading. He was a

26 reader and would pore over books 27 a wide range of interests as 28 as he got them. He had 29 a standing order to two book-shops 30 Bombay to mail him catalogues 31 all the latest titles. Books would 32 come to him in crates, 33 to the amazement of his friends. He 34 set apart a portion 35 his salary every month for meeting the cost of these books

- 26 (A) voracious
- (B) fervent
- (C) anxious
- (D) enthusiastic

- 27 (A) covering
- (B) barring
- (C) including
- (D) containing

- 28 (A) firmly
- (B) quickly
- (C) soon
- (D) urgently

- 29 (A) offered
- (B) proclaimed
- (C) intimated
- (D) given

- 30 (A) at (B) in
- (C) within (D) inside

- 31 (A) of (B) about
- (C) for (D) from

- 32 (A) rarely
- (B) occasionally
- (C) sometimes
- (D) often

- 33 (A) most
- (B) much
- (C) least
- (D) more

- 34 (A) tried
- (B) liked
- (C) used
- (D) wanted

- 35 (A) of
- (B) from
- (C) in
- (D) with

ANSWERS

- 1 (C) they have ever lived
- 2 (C) unless she has a strong desire to live
- 3 (A) Not only did the bandits rob
- 4 (B) a tremendous effect
- 5 (B) a little of
- 6 (B) 7 (B) 8 (C) 9 (C)
- 10 (B) 11 (D) 12 (C) 13 (B)
- 14 (D) 15 (B) 16 (D) 17 (D)
- 18 (B) 19 (A) 20 (A) 21 (A)
- 22 (B) 23 (A) 24 (C) 25 (A)
- 26 (A) 27 (A) 28 (C) 29 (D)
- 30 (B) 31 (A) 32 (D) 33 (B)
- 34 (C) 35 (A)

TEST OF REASONING—I

NUMBER SERIES

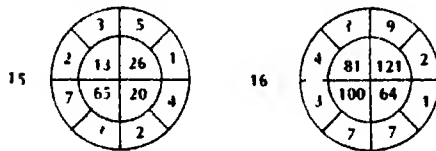
Find out the missing numbers:

- 1 2, 5, 10, , 26, 37
- 2 -1, 6, 25, 62
- 3 3, 12, 45, , 67, 56, 8
- 4 2, 6, 12, 20, , 42
- 5 7, 28, 4, 21, 6, , 3, 15, 5
- 6 1, 14, 8, 9, , 16, 64
- 7 15, 17, 20, 24, 29,
- 8 6, 8, 12, 24, 24, 72, 48,

Find the odd-man out.

- 9 (a) 69 (b) 48 (c) 53 (d) 57
(e) 26
- 10 (a) 144 (b) 99 (c) 81 (d) 121
(e) 4
- 11 (a) 8 (b) 343 (c) 216 (d) 125
(e) 65
- 12 (a) 48 (b) 124 (c) 114 (d) 60
(e) 236
- 13 (a) 28 (b) 48 (c) 84 (d) 36
(e) 72
- 14 (a) 7 (b) 11 (c) 15 (d) 17
(e) 23

Find out the missing numbers:



According to a certain code, \times is +; \div is \times ; + is - and - is \div . Now solve the following questions:

- 17 $15 - 3 + 28 - 7 - ?$
 $6 \div 4 + 17 \times 6 - ?$
(a) 0 (b) 1 (c) 2 (d) 3 (e) 4
- 18 $3 \div 6 \times 2 + 24 - 6 - ?$
 $39 - 13 \times 1$
(a) 0 (b) 1 (c) 2 (d) 3 (e) 4

In the following questions:

- Δ means is bigger than
 \sqsubset means is smaller than
 \emptyset means is equal to
 \oplus means is not equal to

- 19 If $C \Delta A$, $A \sqsubset B$, $D \emptyset B$ and $B \sqsubset C$, then
 (a) $D \Delta C$ (b) $D \sqsubset C$
 (c) $A \Delta C$ (d) $B \oplus D$

- 20 If $B \Delta D$, $D \sqsubset C$, $C \Delta A$ and $B \emptyset A$, then $C \sqsubset B$

- (a) $C \Delta B$ (b) $C \sqsubset B$
 (c) $C \emptyset B$ (d) Can't say

- 21 If $B \oplus A$, $D \Delta A$, $C \Delta B$ and $C \sqsubset A$, then

- (a) $A \Delta B$ (b) $A \emptyset B$
 (c) $A \sqsubset B$ (d) $B \Delta A$

In questions given below, two of the signs have been interchanged. Your task is to find out these two signs so that the equation may become correct.

- 22 $25 \div 5 + 3 \times 2 - 1 = 0$

- (a) \times and + (b) + and - (c) - and \times (d) + and -

- 23 $15 - 7 \times 2 - 15 + 3 - 4 = 2$

- (a) \times and - (b) + and - (c) - and + (d) \times and -

CODING-DECODING

- 24 According to a certain code:

tir me sac means Green are tasty
 dic sac tor means Tomato is green
 voc tir tor means Food is tasty

What would be the code for

'Tomato is tasty'

- (a) tir sac tor (b) dic tir sac
 (c) dic tor tir (d) tor voc dic

- 25 If 'GREATNESS' is HNP CODRI, what would be the code for 'GOODNESS'?

Words in the following question are written in their codes as well. Your task is to find out which choice from a, b, c, d and e represents the letter from the word enclosed in box:

- 26 M O { V } E D
 (a) w (b) j (c) n
 (d) y (e) l
- 27 D { R I V E
 (a) b (b) n (c) l
 (d) j (e) u
- 28 G R E A { T }
 (a) h (b) p (c) k
 (d) b (e) n
- 29 T { R A D E
 (a) l (b) h (c) n
 (d) k (e) b
- 30 T R A M { S }
 (a) c (b) b (c) y
 (d) h (e) k

LETTER SERIES

If letters 2, 4, 6, 8...26 were taken out from the al-

phabetical order and were written in reverse order from Z to B while 1, 3, 5...25 retained their own places (A Z C X E...)

- 31 The letter between K and M would be
 (a) P (b) O
 (c) N (d) L

32 Which would be seventh letter from right?

33 Which letter is exactly in the middle of 18th letter from left and 13th letter from right?

34 Which letter is in the middle of the set of three letters that continue to retain the same positions as they have in the alphabetical order?

35 The word ASTOUNDER has how many words without using any letter twice and without changing the order of letters?

- (a) 1 (b) 2
 (c) 3 (d) 4

If the first four letters of the word CONFUSION were written in reverse order, the fifth retained its place and the last four were written in reverse order too:

36 How many letters will be there between the two Ns?

37 Which letter would be midway between I and C?

Find the odd-man out:

38 bac bca acbaca c-bac

- (a) bcab
 (b) abcb
 (c) acba
 (d) abba

39 acb bac-bacba-acbc

- (a) cbac
 (b) ccac
 (c) cabb
 (d) bbac

40 c abc-cacbab-bacbab-

- (a) bbcc
 (b) bcbc
 (c) bacc
 (d) abcc

41 (a) EADC

- (b) ZVYX
 (c) JFIH
 (d) RNQP
 (e) TOSR

42 (a) ZXVY

- (b) TRPS
 (c) FDAE
 (d) NIJM
 (e) LJHK

CALCULATIONS

43 In a certain village, 45% persons own land, 35% own cattle and 8% own both, land as well as cattle. How many persons have neither?

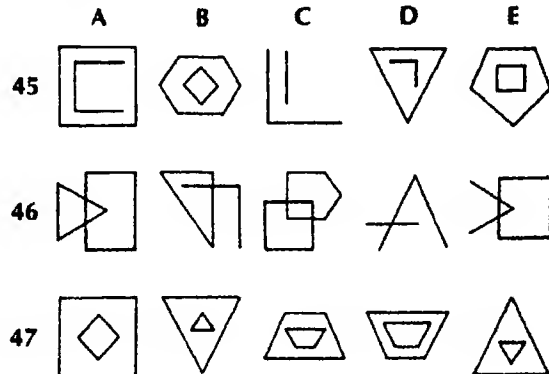
- (a) 12% (b) 28% (c) 20% (d) 18%

44 During survey of an area, it was observed that 62% families owned TV sets, 48% owned refrigerators and 24% neither TV sets nor refrigerators. How many families had both the items?

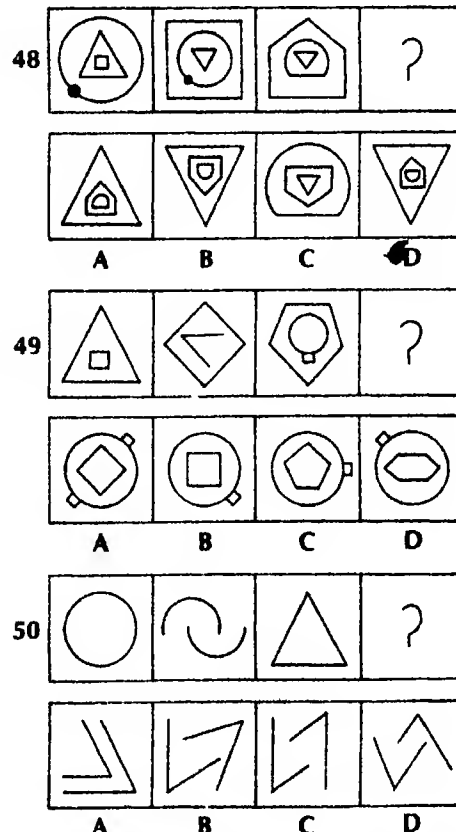
- (a) 28% (b) 14% (c) 34% (d) 38%

NON-VERBAL SERIES

Find the odd-man out:



In the questions given below, the first two figures have certain relationship. You have to tick-mark the figure from A, B, C and D with the similar relationship to the third figure.



ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 17 The numbers have difference of 3, 5, 7, 9 respectively</p> <p>2 123 The numbers are 1^3-2, 2^3-2, 3^3-2</p> <p>3 30 In sets of three, the second number is the product of first and third numbers</p> <p>4 30 The series is 1^2+1, 2^2+2, 3^2+3, hence has a difference of 4, 6, 8, 10 respectively</p> <p>5 18 Second, fourth, sixth, eighth numbers are product of numbers on their right and left</p> <p>6 27 The series is 1^2, 1^3, 2^2, 2^3, 3^2, 3^3</p> <p>7 35 Go on adding 2, 3, 4, 5 to numbers respectively</p> <p>8 216 There are two series, 6, 12, 24, 48 each number double of the previous one and 8, 24, 72, 216, each number three times of the previous number</p> <p>9 (c) It is the only prime number</p> <p>10 (b) All the other numbers are squares of certain numbers</p> <p>11 (c) All the other numbers are cube of some number</p> <p>12 (c) All the others are divisible by 4</p> <p>13 (a) All the others are divisible by 3</p> <p>14 (c) All the others are prime numbers</p> <p>15 4 For each quarter the inner number is obtained by adding squares of outer numbers $7^2+4^2=65$</p> <p>16 5 The arrangement is $(5+4)^2$, $(9+2)^2=121$</p> | <p>17 (b) 18 (e) 19 (b) 20 (d)</p> <p>21 (a) 22 (d) 23 (b) 24 (c)</p> <p>25 IIQFZUMFRT</p> <p>Solve the next set of questions by sorting out common letters and matching them with common letters in codes, e.g. only 'R' is common in 'DRIVE' and 'TRAMS' so 'b' would be the code for 'R'</p> <p>26 (b) 27 (c) 28 (c) 29 (e)</p> <p>30 (a)</p> <p>The series would be</p> <p>A Z C X E V G T I R K P M N O L Q J S H U F W D Y B</p> <p>31 (a) 32 H 33 L 34 N</p> <p>35 (c) AS/TO/UNDER</p> <p>36 3 (FNOCUNOIS) 37 N</p> <p>38 (d) Two sets are repeated bacab/cabac/ba</p> <p>39 (b) Two sets are repeated acbc/bcac/ac</p> <p>40 (a) The series is cbabc/bcacb/abcha/cbabc</p> <p>41 (e) 42 (c) 43 (b) 44 (c)</p> <p>45 B The figure inside has two arms less, all the others have one side less only</p> <p>46 E The figure crossing the main figure should have one arm less. This one has two arms less</p> <p>47 D The figure inside should tilt, this one stands in the same position</p> <p>48 D 49 B 50 C</p> |
|--|--|

TEST OF REASONING

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TEST OF REASONING—II

ODD-MAN

Find the odd-man out:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. (a) chart | (b) poster |
| (c) design | (d) paper |
| (e) sketch | |
| 2. (a) chick | (b) pony |
| (c) puppy | (d) duckling |
| (e) calf | |
| 3. (a) cream | (b) curd |
| (c) butter | (d) oil |
| (e) cheese | |
| 4. (a) cake | (b) biscuit |
| (c) bread | (d) omelette |
| (e) pastry | |
| 5. (a) scrub | (b) sweep |
| (c) stain | (d) wipe |
| (e) wash | |
| 6. (a) Indian | (b) Atlantic |
| (c) Pacific | (d) Mediterranean |
| (e) Arctic | |
| 7. (a) rhyme | (b) rhombus |
| (c) limerick | (d) couplet |
| (e) verse | |
| 8. (a) hat | (b) cap |
| (c) helmet | (d) turban |
| (e) veil | |

ANALOGIES

Words in the first set in the following questions have a definite relationship. Your task is to tick-mark the choice with similar relationship:

9. face : expression :: hand : ?
 (a) handshake (b) waving
 (c) fingers (d) work
 (e) palm
10. heart : blood :: lung : ?
 (a) air (b) breathing
 (c) purification (d) ribs
 (e) respiration
11. food : refrigerator :: petrol : ?
 (a) oil-wells (b) tank
 (c) cars (d) refinery
 (e) evaporation
12. fog : visibility :: AIDS : ?
 (a) virus (b) death
 (c) disease (d) resistance
 (e) health
13. infant : child :: bud : ?
 (a) flower (b) plant

- (c) twig (d) tree
 (e) fragrance

14. radio : transistor :: pen : ?
 (a) writing (b) ink
 (c) ball-point (d) stationery
 (e) paper
15. provide : deprive :: ? : important
 (a) urgent (b) influential
 (c) power (d) trifle
 (e) position
16. coat : garment :: influenza : ?
 (a) infection (b) disease
 (c) fever (d) epidemic
 (e) treatment

What is common in the following? You have to tick-mark (v) the most appropriate choice.

17. Jane Austen : Ernest Hemingway : Sarojini Naidu.
 (a) They were freedom fighters
 (b) They were governors.
 (c) They were writers.
 (d) They were scientists.
18. rickets : scurvy : beri-beri
 (a) They are insects.
 (b) They are infectious diseases
 (c) They are diseases caused by deficiency of vitamins.
 (d) These are diseases caused by certain insect bite.
19. pharynx : diaphragm : capillaries.
 (a) The terms are related to Egyptian architecture.
 (b) They are human organs.
 (c) They are herbs, very useful from medical point of view.
 (d) All these terms are used in land-survey.
20. magenta : fawn : turquoise
 (a) They are migratory birds.
 (b) They are precious and semi-precious stones.
 (c) They are marine creatures.
 (d) They are colours.

LOGICAL DEDUCTIONS

21. Starting from North, Ramesh goes 30 metres towards South and then takes a left turn and goes 25 metres. He again turns towards left and goes 30 metres. To which direction and how much away is he from his starting point?

- (a) 25 metres West (b) 25 metres East
 (c) 55 metres South (d) 5 metres North

22. Ravi is ranked 8th from the top and 28th from the

last in his class. The number of students in the class is
(a) 36 (b) 35 (c) 34 (d) 37

23 How many pair of letters are there in the word IDLA1 (the word is to be written clockwise in a round) which are as far as they appear in alphabet?
(a) None (b) 1 (c) 2 (d) 3

Read the information given below and answer the questions that follow

A, B, C, D, E and F are members of a family and are lawyer, doctor, teacher, salesman, engineer and accountant by profession

There are two married couples in the family
D, the salesman is married to the lady teacher
The doctor is married to the lawyer
I, the accountant, is son of B and brother of E
C, the lawyer is daughter-in-law of A
E is an unmarried engineer

A is grand-mother of F

- 24 What is the profession of B?
(a) accountant (b) doctor
(c) teacher (d) can't be determined
- 25 What is the profession of A?
(a) teacher (b) doctor
(c) lawyer (d) can't be determined
- 26 B is of D
(a) son (b) grandson
(c) brother (d) None of these
- 27 How is D related to F?
(a) husband (b) brother
(c) father (d) grandfather
- 28 Which of the following is a married couple?
(a) C and D (b) A and B
(c) F and A (d) B and C

Mukesh is taller than Rajeev but shorter than Amar who is shorter than Vijay. Suman is taller than Mukesh but shorter than Amar.

- 29 Who is the tallest?
(a) Mukesh (b) Suman
(c) Vijay (d) Amar
- 30 If all are asked to stand in descending order according to height, who would be in fourth place?
(a) Vijay (b) Suman
(c) Mukesh (d) Rajeev

Five girls, Sheela, Sarla, Shakuntala, Vimla and Usha are serving in Yokohama, Addis Ababa, Jakarta, Paris and Bangkok. Your task is to match the right parts on the

basis of the information given below:

Sheela and Usha do not serve in Jakarta or Bangkok
Sarla and Shakuntala are not serving in Addis Ababa or Paris

Vimla has nothing to do with Jakarta or Addis Ababa
Shakuntala is not in Jakarta neither is Vimla in Bangkok or Paris

Usha is not in Addis Ababa

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 31 Sheela | A Yokohama |
| 32 Sarla | B Addis Ababa |
| 33 Shakuntala | C Jakarta |
| 34 Vimla | D Paris |
| 35 Usha | E Bangkok |

- 36 If during a certain year, 4th April was on Wednesday, 4th July in that year would be on
(a) Monday (b) Tuesday
(c) Wednesday (d) Friday

Four devotees A, B, C and D started on foot for yatra to a temple that was 10 miles away from their starting point. They reached their destination in following manner:

A covered the first 3 miles at 10 minutes per mile, the next 4 at 12 minutes per mile and the remaining 3 at 14 minutes per mile

B covered the first 4 miles at 9 minutes per mile, 4 at the rate of 11 minutes per mile and the remaining 2 miles in 15 minutes per mile

C travelled the first 5 miles at the rate of 11 minutes per mile, the next 4 at 12 minutes per mile and the last remaining mile in 13 minutes

D covered the first 5 miles at the rate of 11 minutes per mile, the next 3 at the rate of 12 minutes per mile and the last 2 miles at the rate of 13 minutes per mile

- 37 Who was the first person to reach the temple?
(a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D
- 38 Who was the third person to reach there?
(a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D

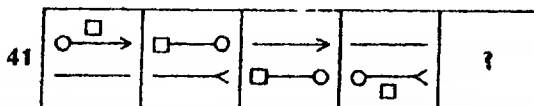
The average age of four children Mahesh, Ramesh, Jagdish and Satish is 10 years. Mahesh is the eldest and Satish is youngest. Satish and Jagdish have difference of one year. Ramesh and Mahesh have difference of one year. Satish and Mahesh have a gap of four years between them.

- 39 How old is Mahesh?
(a) 8 (b) 10 (c) 12 (d) 14
- 40 How old is Jagdish?
(a) 8 (b) 9 (c) 10 (d) 11

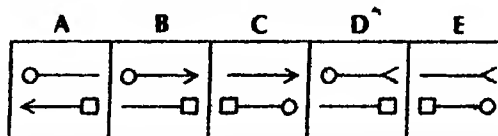
NON-VERBAL SERIES

Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures marked A, B, C, D and E. Find out which of the Answer Figures would fit in place of the question mark in the Problem Figures:

PROBLEM FIGURES



ANSWER FIGURES



42					?
43					?
44					?
45					?
46					?
47					?
48					?
49					?
50					?

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (d) It is the base on which all the others are drawn
2. (b) Pony is a species while others are young ones of animals.
3. (d) All the others are milk products.
4. (d) All the others are baked.
5. (c) All the others are terms related to cleaning.
6. (d) It is the only sea among oceans.
7. (b) It is a geometrical figure while others are related to poetry.
8. (e) It covers face, all the others cover head.
9. (d) The relationship is that of object and the way it expresses and functions.
10. (a) The relationship is that of the organ and the thing it stores for purification.
11. (b) The relationship is that of the item and the object where it can be safely stored.
12. (d) One makes the other poor.
13. (a) The relationship is that of previous and later stage.
14. (c) Both belong to the same category.
15. (d) The words are antonyms.
16. (b) One is a particular item of the second category.
17. (c) 18. (c) 19. (b) 20. (d)
21. (b) 22. (b) 23. (d) AD, AE, DE.
24. (b) 25. (a) 26. (a) 27. (d)
28. (d) 29. (c) 30. (c) 31. B
32. C 33. E 34. A 35. D 36. (c)
37. (b) 38. (d) 39. (c) 40. (b)
41. B The circle moves right and left, the square goes round anti-clockwise and the arrow-head shifts up and down and changes direction
42. E Dot and peg move in opposite direction and have different pace. The figure in the centre tilts alternately.
43. C. The figure rotates clockwise with an added line and interchange of figures at the edges. The dot slides round the figure.
44. E. Study the movement of all the small flags and figures.
45. B The rod turns up and down, the bar near it goes right and left with an added line.
46. E. The main figure rotates anti-clockwise, pattern changes alternately and dot covers one pace extra with each step anti-clockwise.
47. A. The pattern changes alternately, arrow changes direction and moves from left to centre and extreme right.
48. C. Study the movement of each figure individually.
49. D. Triangle goes from one corner to the opposite one changing direction, circle in the centre rotates and the third figure rotates as well as moves anti-clockwise.
50. B. Study the movement of each figure individually.

TEST OF REASONING—III

SYLLOGISM

TYPE I

In each question given below is a 'Statement' followed by two courses of action numbered I and II. A course of action is a step or administrative decision to be taken for improvement, follow up, for further action in regard to the problem, policy etc. Assuming the 'Statement' to be true, you have to decide which of the two given suggested courses of action logically follows. Tick-mark (✓) your answers.

- (a) if only I follows.
- (b) if only II follows.
- (c) if both I and II follow.
- (d) if either I or II follows
- (e) if neither I nor II follows.

Statement

1. The Committee has criticized the Institute for failure to implement a dozen of regular programmes despite an increase in the staff-strength and not drawing up a firm action plan for studies and research.

Course of Action.

- I. The broad objectives of the Institute should be redefined to implement a practical action plan
- II. The Institute should give a report on reasons for not having implemented the planned programmes.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

2. The rates of interest on Post-Office recurring deposit accounts have been increased to attract deposits.

Course of Action.

- I. Efforts should be made to make the public aware of this increase in rates of interest.
- II. If the deposits do not increase in next six months, the rate of interest should be further increased

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

3. The State Govt has decided to declare 'Kala Azar' as a notifiable disease under the Epidemics Act. Under the Epidemics Act, 1897, members of family and neighbourhood are liable to be punished in case they did not inform the authorities concerned.

Course of Action:

- I. Efforts should be made to collectively implement the Act.
- II. The cases of punishment should be propagated through mass-media so that more people become aware of the stern action.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

4. Every year, at the beginning or at the end of monsoons, we have some cases of conjunctivitis, but this year, it seems to be a major epidemic, witnessed after nearly four years.

Course of Action:

- I. Preventive measures should be taken after every four years only to check the epidemic.
 - II. People should be advised to use clean water.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE II

Read the following information carefully and answer questions 5 to 15 by applying the rules to them.

Following are the conditions of promotion from scale D to scale C in an organisation.

An employee must:

- (a) be graduate with minimum 50% marks.
- (b) not be more than 45 years as on 10.11.1991.
- (c) have secured minimum required marks in Promotion Test (P.T.) The minimum marks are Part A—35 out of 100 and Part B—25 out of 75, and total of 70 in both A and B.
- (d) have atleast 10 years' experience from which at least four years experience must be in scale D.
- (e) having Confidential Report (CR) without any negative entry.

Also that:

- I. If a candidate satisfies all other conditions but is more than 45 years and less than 50 years, he must be referred to the Governing Board.
- II. If a candidate satisfies all other conditions, but has not completed 4 years' service in scale D then he must be referred to Director, provided he has secured 120 or more than 120 marks in the Promotion Test.

On the basis of above information, you have to decide about the promotion of each case individually and tick-mark (✓) your answer:

- (a) if the employee is to be promoted.
- (b) if case is to be referred to the Governing Board.
- (c) if the case is to be referred to the Director.
- (d) if the information is inadequate and is not sufficient to decide.
- (e) if the employee cannot be promoted.

5. Ravi Tandon is a graduate with 60% marks. His CR does not have any negative entry. He has secured 80 marks in PT with 50 marks in Part A. His date of birth is 12.10.1948. He has served the organisation for 10 years and has recently been promoted to grade D.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

6. Vimla Mahesh joined the organisation as scale E

employee 9 years ago 2 years later she was promoted to scale D and two increments were also given to her She secured 76% marks in graduation and was of 30 years as on 10.8.91 Her CR has no negative entry

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

7 Mohan Seth, who is in scale D since last five years has done graduation with 55% marks He joined the organisation as scale F employee and was promoted 5 years later He was 40 years old on 22.3.90 and his CR has no negative entry He has secured 40 and 50 marks in Part A and B of PT respectively

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

8 Bipin Saha, who is a graduate with 51% marks was born on 19.9.45 His CR has no negative entry he secured 40 and 30 marks respectively in Part A and B of PT respectively He has been with the organisation for the last 15 years and was promoted to scale D 6 years ago

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

9 32-year old Vinita Suri is graduate in Home Science with 52% marks She has completed 10 years of service in the organisation and during this service she was in scale D itself She secured 55% marks in Part A of PT and total of 75

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

10 Sanj Ram has secured 40 and 20 marks in Part A and B of PT respectively His CR does not have any negative entry He has completed 15 years of service out of which 6 years service has been in grade D

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

11 Mukesh has served in the organisation for 20 years and 3 years ago he was promoted to scale D He is a science graduate with 60% marks He was 42 on 1.3.91 He secured 80 marks in Part A and 45 in Part B of PT His CR is good

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

12 On 21.5.91, 30-year old Archana Gupta completed 11 years of service in the organisation Two years back she was promoted to scale D She is graduate with 65% marks She also got a total of 130 marks in the PT of which she got 80 in Part A Her CR has no negative entry

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

13 Ajay Sondhi secured highest marks in the PT He also got highest marks in each part of the PT He is a graduate with 80% marks He was 47 on 1.9.91 and has no negative entry in his CR He has completed 10 years of service in scale D

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

14 Deepthi was 37 on 14.3.1989 She has done her graduation with 59% marks She secured 125 total marks in the PT Her CR has no negative remark She has completed 12 years of service in the organisation with 4 years in scale D

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

15 Bala Chandan, whose date of birth is 2.8.1947, has done her graduation with 50% marks She has been serving the organisation for 12 years, of which, for 5 years she was in grade D Her CR has no negative entry In promotion test, Part A, she got 50 marks and 25 in Part B

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE III

In questions given below, a statement is followed by implications I and II. Imply I and II to the statement and mark your answers as under

- (a) Only I is implicit
- (b) Only II is implicit
- (c) Both I and II are implicit
- (d) Either I or II is implicit
- (e) Neither I nor II is implicit

Statement

16 Doordarshan has invited proposals for selection of new serials after the payment of a registration fee of Rs 2000/- to discourage non serious producers from coming into tray

Implications

- I Every Tom, Dick and Harry tries to enter the race of serial producers
- II Only well to-do producers present good serials

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

17 The Indian government has been extra careful in not seeming to interfere in Burma, yet our PM sent message of congratulations to Suu Kyi on being awarded Nobel Prize and wished her success with her mission

Implications

- I The policies of Indian government are changing and they do not mind giving opinion
- II Courtesy demanded this course of action from a neighbour having faith in democracy

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

18 Moves are on to change the history syllabus in schools and colleges

Implications

- I The history taught in schools and colleges is not the correct record of the events
- II There would be no change in other subjects

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

19 Of all the States, Bihar has benefitted the least from developmental activities since independence

Implications

- I The funds sanctioned by the Centre are not sufficient
- II The development programmes have not been sorted out wisely according to the need of State

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

20 Leaders, these days, are involved more in party-activities than in the welfare of the country

Implications

- I Country cannot progress without party-activities
- II Power seeking leaders are not the dedicated type

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE IV

In making decisions about important questions, it is desirable to be able to distinguish between strong arguments and weak arguments. A weak argument may not be directly related to the question, may be of trivial importance, or may be related to some minor aspect of the question. In questions given below, a question is followed by arguments I and II. You have to decide which of the arguments is strong and which is weak and then tick mark your answers as under.

- (a) Only I is strong
(b) Only II is strong
(c) Both I and II are strong
(d) Either I or II is strong
(e) Neither I nor II is strong
21. Should electronic machines be used for registering votes?
I Yes, the use of automatic electronic machines would stop irregularities.
II No, machines spread unemployment.
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐
22. Should a mine be closed for long if there has been some mishap?
I Yes, the whole set up along with its equipment should be checked and rechecked.
II No, closing the mine means unemployment for the labour.
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐
23. Will the Non Proliferation Treaty last long?
I Yes, the world is sick of the panic and threat of N-arms.
II No, the nuclear ambition knows no bounds.
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐
24. Should students using unfair means be rusticated for a long period?
I Yes, such severe punishments are essential to set example for others.
II No, the career of such young people is scarred and spotted for ever.
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐
25. Should laws be amended from time to time?
I Yes, with changing times, new perspectives develop and new situations arise.
II No, basics always remain the same and the persons who made laws were very wise and foresighted.
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE V

In questions given below, statements 1 and 2 are followed by conclusions I and II. Taking the statements to be true, although they may appear at variance with commonly accepted facts, tick mark your answers as under.

- (a) Only I is valid
(b) Only II is valid
(c) Both I and II are valid
(d) Either I or II is valid
(e) Neither I nor II is valid

Statements

26. I All readers are black

2. All writers are black

- Conclusions I Some readers are writers
II Some writers are readers
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

27. 1 All goats are cows
2 All cows are dogs

- Conclusions I All dogs are goats
II All goats are dogs
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

28. 1 Some mistakes are serious
2 Some actions are mistakes

- Conclusions I Some actions are serious
II All mistakes are serious
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

29. 1 All pens are pencils
2 Some books are pencils

- Conclusions I No pencils are books
II All pens are books
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

30. 1 All scientists are researchers
2 Some researchers are teachers

- Conclusions I No scientist is teacher
II Some teachers are scientists
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

31. 1 Only some of those children play tennis who are either short or tall
2 All children who do not play tennis are either singers or dancers

- Conclusions I Some tall children are dancers or singers
II No singer is a dancer
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

32. 1 All diplomats wear black hat
2 All ladies put on either yellow or red hat

- Conclusions I No lady is a diplomat
II Men other than diplomats do not wear black hat
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

33. 1 Colds are often followed by ear-aches
2 Ear-aches often end in head-aches

- Conclusions I All colds end in headaches
II Nose, ear and head are interconnected
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE VI

In questions given below, Assumption A is followed by Reasons RI and RII. Tick-mark your answers.

- (a) if only RI is the reason for A
(b) if only RII is the reason for A
(c) if both RI and RII are reasons for A
(d) if either RI or RII is reason for A
(e) if neither RI nor RII is the reason for A

34. A Children like action-packed movies while emotional themes bore them

RI Actions are always exciting for children.

- RII Children are not mature enough to understand and appreciate human emotions
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐
- 35 A The theme of most of the popular ghazals in jam maikhana and saqi (liquor, bar and barmaid)
RI All ghazal poets frequent bars and spend much time with barmaids
RII The audience likes this particular theme much more than other deep ones
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐
- 36 A Coinage of words often gives an added dimension to the statement
RI Simple words cannot convey all one wants to say
RII Newly coined words have to be used for conveying underlying meaning
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐
- 37 A In filmdom, if an actor plays the role of villain in his first film successfully, he is stamped a villain for ever
RI The Indian cinema goes by image
RII The directors know the actor's potentiality and do not want to give him a variety of roles
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐
- 38 A Most of the hard core criminals started their under-world activities with pick pocketing
RI Crime is an art that has to be learnt by degrees
RII There is not much punishment for pick pocketing
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐
- 39 A If a prisoner dies in the custody of the police the authorities are in trouble
RI Prisoners are kept in jail for their well being
RII It reflects on third degree methods which are not to be used according to law
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE VII

Below is given a passage followed by several inferences which can be drawn from the facts stated in the passage. You have to decide upon its degree of truth or falsity. Answer

- A if the inference is definitely true
B if it is probably true
C if data is inadequate
D if the inference is probably false
E if it is definitely false

Years of international experience and debates on the question of the long term viability of large dam projects have by now yielded enough evidence for us to unhesitatingly conclude that all such projects are counter productive, anti-people, anti-environmental and especially, anti-poor. As such, considering the information available on the subject, the advocacy of such a project on the part of those who ought to know better, must be seen as an irresponsible act

40 Some people are in favour of constructing large dams

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

41 The construction of large dams is not a recent

idea

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

42 Most of the international organisations support the idea of large dam projects

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

43 People advocating large dam projects are not aware of its ill effects

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ F ☐

44 The proposed project is a replica of large dam in some other country

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ F ☐


















45 In the international arena, the controversy on the long term viability of large dam projects ended decades ago

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ F ☐

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1 (c)	2 (a)	3 (c)	4 (b)
5 (c)	6 (c)	7 (a)	8 (b)
9 (c)	10 (d)	11 (c)	12 (c)
13 (b)	14 (a)	15 (a)	16 (a)
17 (b)	18 (c)	19 (d)	20 (b)
21 (a)	22 (c)	23 (d)	24 (c)
25 (a)			

Questions from next set are best answered by drawing diagrams of all the possible situations and then reaching a definite conclusion

- 26 (c)   
- 27 (b)  
- 28 (c)    
- 29 (c)  
- 30 (d)    
- 31 (c)  

32 (a) No lady wears black hat which is essential for diplomats, hence the conclusion

33 (b) First is not confirmed because of the word 'often'

34 (c) 35 (b) 36 (c) 37 (a)

38 (a) 39 (b)

40 A The passage refers to people who advocate such projects

41 A The passage mentions the word 'years'

42 C Nothing has been stated regarding international involvement in such projects

43 B The passage refers to their innocence and yet states facts about debates on the subject, hence probably true

44 C No information has been given in this regard

45 D The evidence and results have been yielded now

Improve Your Word Power

- 1 **animadversion:** (a) appreciation (b) devotion (c) deception (d) criticism
- 2 **bile:** (a) corruption (b) cooperation (c) irritability (d) faith
- 3 **checkmate:** (a) encourage (b) defeat (c) boast (d) break
- 4 **dalliance:** (a) flirtation (b) responsibility (c) diffidence (d) sacrifice
- 5 **fillip:** (a) expression (b) decision (c) doubt (d) incentive
- 6 **garbled:** (a) clear (b) bright (c) confused (d) injured
- 7 **hawk (Verb):** (a) spread (b) fly (c) float (d) drown
- 8 **inebriated:** (a) unconscious (b) excited (c) silent (d) serious
- 9 **jumble (Noun):** (a) delicious (b) bitter (c) cheap (d) disorder
- 10 **linchpin:** (a) prosperity (b) progress (c) orthodox (d) vital
- 11 **mollycoddle:** (a) control (b) pamper (c) donate (d) condole
- 12 **nadir:** (a) depression (b) suspicion (c) consolation (d) top
- 13 **panjandrum:** (a) pompous (b) moderate (c) modest (d) victim
- 14 **quisling:** (a) singer (b) musician (c) reformer (d) traitor
- 15 **rumbustious:** (a) quarrelsome (b) depressed (c) boisterous (d) helpful
- 16 **snazzy:** (a) backward (b) conservative (c) slow (d) smart
- 17 **typhoon:** (a) businessman (b) hurricane (c) engineer (d) broker
- 18 **ungainly:** (a) plentiful (b) clumsy (c) empty (d) vacant
- 19 **woozy:** (a) enlightened (b) confused (c) dark (d) carefree
- 20 **yelp (Noun):** (a) bark (b) aid (c) tear (d) offence

ANSWERS

- 1 **animadversion:** (d) criticism
—Besides being a description of bar-room culture, the novel is an *animadversion* on East-West relations as well
- 2 **bile:** (c) irritability, bad temper
—The men, powerless in foreign environment, turn their *bile* and anger on the women
- 3 **checkmate:** (b) defeat, frustrate
—The netarious designs of the enemy to push trained subversives across the border were *checkmated* by the alert soldiers
- 4 **dalliance:** (a) flirtation, frivolous behaviour
—Parents should keep a watch over such children as are in the habit of spending time in idle *dalliances*
- 5 **fillip:** (d) incentive stimulus, encouragement
—An advertising campaign on the television is the most effective way of giving *fillip* to the sagging sales
- 6 **garbled:** (c) confused, misleading
—The injured man was still in a state of shock and could only give a *garbled* account of the accident
- 7 **hawk (Verb):** (a) spread, sell, peddle
—Those hell bent on bringing about changes resort to *hawking* about dreams among the people
- 8 **inebriated:** (b) excited, drunk, intoxicated
—*Inebriated* by his success in the competitive examination, the young scholar was in high spirits
- 9 **jumble (Noun):** (d) disorder, mix up, confusion
—From a *jumble* of books and papers on the table, I was trying to find out the book of my choice
- 10 **linchpin:** (d) vital, pivotal, important
—Till yesterday the success of communism as panacea for all ills was the *linchpin* of many ruling parties' political philosophy
- 11 **mollycoddle:** (b) pamper, spoil
—He does not believe that children should be *mollycoddled* by treating them with too much protection
- 12 **nadir:** (a) depression, despair
—Economists fear that world economy may have to face another *nadir* before the end of this century
- 13 **panjandrum:** (a) pompous, self important
—It is a matter of concern that Indian intellectual, the peerless *panjandrum* of impenetrable poses, is fast fading out
- 14 **quisling:** (d) traitor
—During the freedom struggle, India produced an army of patriots along with a few *quislings* as well
- 15 **rumbustious:** (c) boisterous, cheerful
—The street-theatre evokes a spontaneous and *rumbustious* response from the audience
- 16 **snazzy:** (d) smart, stylish
—The young executives are fond of fast food and *snazzy* dresses
- 17 **typhoon:** (b) hurricane, cyclone
—The *typhoon* that hit the coastal districts of southern States, left behind a trail of death and destruction.
- 18 **ungainly:** (b) clumsy, awkward.
—The *ungainly* movements of ducks out of water left an ugly effect on the viewers.
- 19 **woozy:** (b) confused, dizzy, dazed
—As a result of drinking too much alcohol, the host was too *woozy* to look after the guests
- 20 **yelp (Noun):** (a) bark, cry
—The dog gave a sudden *yelp* when I trod on its paw.

Parliamentary Democracy in India

*For forms of government let fools
contest*

*While it is best administered is
best*

—Pope

THE torch bearers of India's freedom movement, guided and inspired by the fatherly figure Mahatma Gandhi as well as the founding fathers (most of whom were common) of the Indian Constitution were convinced of the fact that democracy (British model) was the only viable system that could preserve the Indian entity, constitute its whole beyond the sum of the various fragments that go into its making and promote its invaluable genius of stumbling along towards a human order after centuries of exploitation, humiliation and horrendous sufferings. If democracy was done away with, India itself would sink in the morass of various particularities that constituted it. Universal adult-franchise and a periodic renewal of the popular mandate obtained by the governments, both at the Centre and in the States, are the *sine qua non* of democracy and hence of India's integrity and its distinct identity among the comity of nations. The framers of the Constitution built up a glorious edifice of popular rule which has survived various stresses and strains of time, both internally and externally. In spite of the vociferous apprehensions of the sceptics, democracy in India has come to stay.

There is no denying the fact that in a parliamentary democracy like ours, the place, prestige and position of the Speaker is a pivotal one. Not only is he the conscience keeper of

the House but also he is the custodian of its time-tested precedents, conventions and traditions. It is he who upholds the dignity of the office as well as that of the august House without fear or favour. Like Caesar's wife, he is above board and mundane motives. For him 'Speakership' is neither a launching pad nor a stepping stone for something to manipulate now and wait for some later-day reward. Of course there are moments when the proceedings of the House become highly explosive and instead of tongue power it is the lung-power that rules the roost and like a helpless spectator, the poor Speaker finds himself friendless and defenceless. In the midst of deafening din and free-for-all exchange of epithets and verbal threats, he is the one who has to show an exemplary sense of time and tune all his powers to conduct its business in a manner that leaves an indelible impression of his tactfulness and tenacity.

The success of parliamentary democracy depends upon the stature of its Speaker, leader of the House, calibre and conduct of its members and above all the firm faith of all that the House is a sacred institution for debate and discussion, argument and opinion and not an arena to show physical prowess and bullying tactics. Parliamentary history the world over is full of anecdotes and incidents that speak volumes of the wit and wisdom of stalwarts, who took the legislative business of the House in all seriousness and sobriety. While sitting in the House there is nothing casual or cavalier to fall back. Parliamentary democracy is to survive and fulfil the aspirations of people whose collective will and wisdom the

members represent. Of late, unfortunately, the image of this august office, barring a few exceptions, has come under a cloud. Rewarding the 'defecting members' with ministerial berths or with some equivalent public office is a sad commentary on the working of parliamentary democracy in India.

Ever since the coming into force of the Constitution in 1950 (amended more than 70 times since then), the question and criterion of a Governor's selection, appointment, transfer or even dismissal have been a subject of both serious and continuous controversy for the simple reason that the role of a Governor as the ears and eyes of the Central government has a great bearing on the health of parliamentary democracy. In the initial years after independence, men of eminence were sent to the 'Raj Bhavans' to lend grace and glory to the office but with the passage of time, degeneration set in and considerations other than the Constitutional ones came to the fore, as a result of which some inconvenient/rejected/pliable politicians were despatched to occupy the Raj Bhavans and as and when the situation so required, they were conveniently used to promote the ruling party's interests at the Centre without giving even a passing thought to the hammering blow that such acts of expediency would give to the functioning of our nascent parliamentary democracy. The way a popularly elected government was got rid of in Kerala in the fifties, was the beginning of a sad chapter in our parliamentary history. In the same vein the absurd drama was enacted with the wholesale dismissal of State

governments and Governors after 1977 elections. *Two wrongs do not make a right*. Hence the repeat performance of dismissing State governments and Governors again in 1980 was more a vindictive exercise in tutility than a Constitutional propriety which left a long trail of bad blood and ill will among political parties. The absurdity of these populist gimmick becomes clear and candid in hindsight only when tempers are cooled and the writings on the wall become understandable.

India is a functioning anarchy, said John Galbraith. But according to Prof. Hyod Rudolf (USA), India's ability to carry on with a minority government (June 1991) has surprised political scientists. The people of India have displayed maturity and sophistication. Though these comments are quite flattering, one cannot forget the fate of two earlier attempts of sustaining such minority governments (1989-90) with outside support that ended in a tiasco and failure without a tear being shed or an obituary being written on their demise.

As is natural and normal, our parliamentary democracy has passed through the jungle of hopes and fears, permutations and combinations, convenient floor crossings and expedient exercises in engineering defections in the name of stability, ideology and integrity but all such acts of the theatre of the absurd made the politicians a laughing stock and the democratic institutions suffer kicks and knocks, the worst of which came with the declaration of Emergency in 1975. In sharp contrast to what Prof. Rudolf has said, the comments of *The Economist* (London) after the fall of two minority governments were highly pungent and thought-provoking. The thoughts of India's leaders dwell on which colleagues' backs can be most conveniently stabbed at the smallest risk of exposing their own. Until that changes, India cannot prosper. The country is going to rack and ruin. No one is discussing the economic crisis; they spend all their time on how to make and unmake govern-

ments" (March 1991).

Equally relevant and realistic are the views of a former Secretary-General of Lok Sabha. The decline of Parliament, like environmental degradation, is a world-wide concern. Whether the Indian Parliament has deteriorated depends on how you perceive its role. Yes, there is a drop in the standards of debating and oratory. But today's MPs are more earthy and concerned with the needs of their constituents. In contrast to the earlier Lok Sabhas which were more elitist and in which the leadership came from urban, westernised and well-to-do sections, today's House has a predominantly agricultural background, underscoring the fundamental shift to real India. Typically today's average MP is less interested in law making or exercising parliamentary surveillance over the government and administration. Most MPs perceive Parliament as a forum for grievance ventilation on behalf of their constituents. The Parliament is beginning to discuss international issues less and less and the shift from international to national, to regional, to local issues is very evident.

Over the years if the Indian electorate has shown a remarkable evidence of political wisdom and maturity, the same cannot be said of the system that has come to be identified with the polluting power of 'money, muscle and mafia'. The visionaries who framed the Indian Constitution, could not have imagined even in their wildest dreams that such distortions as criminalisation of politics, 'kidnappings of elected members', 'clandestine sale and purchase of members' *et al* would become the *modus operandi* of some. It does not augur well for the future of parliamentary democracy in India if some elected members of a State assembly resisted their arrest with the help of their personal armed guards, knowing fully well that they were being arrested on the basis of some criminal charges against them. In the same breath, the election of 'two highjackers' to a State assembly a few years back is not something to

be brushed aside or ignored. Such cases are not mere aberrations in the functioning of our parliamentary democracy; they are the symptoms of a malaise that has acquired respectability and acceptance in our milieu.

Besides the cancer of 'defections', criminalisation of politics, the parliamentary system has come under the grave threat of disruption which the insurgents, militants, secessionists and terrorists are hell-bent to carry out. To some extent they succeeded in their nefarious designs by forcing the 'powers that be' to postpone elections to one or two State assemblies and also rendered the free movement of people's representatives a highly restricted exercise. It is an interesting paradox of Indian polity, that whereas the Indian electorate has again and again demonstrated its ability to rise above communal and casteist mobilisation, it is the managers of the polity who are unwilling to give up their age-old constructions of the mind of Indian masses, a mind they can only conceive of as steeped in caste and communal identities.

Notwithstanding the occasional set backs and pit falls that parliamentary democracy has to encounter and suffer a few bruises here and there, the heart is sound and sonorous. To make it more resilient and rigorous, the President's advice to limit the size of ministries and to stop defectors from holding public office, has come to us at a time when we have already embarked upon a new course of economic liberalisation and monetary reforms. Why not make similar departures in our political philosophy as well so that our parliamentary democracy is insulated against evil intrusions.

"Without wishing to make prophecies, we can say that in this great historical vacuum democracy is the only regime which is still showing signs of life" (Octavio Paz, Nobel Laureate) and "when democracy becomes corrupt, the best gravitates to the bottom, the worst floats to the top, and the vile is replaced by the more vile" (Henry George).

Politics in Sports

'Politics in sports' is the bane of all creative passions and pursuits as also an insult to human endeavour that is ever eager and earnest to display its physical as well as mental agility and prowess to the best of its vision and ability. The lengthening shadows of politics were most perceptible and palpable during the years of 'Cold War' when issues, whether scientific, cultural or sporting, were judged by ideological idiosyncracies rather than by the ideals of excellence and emulation. Even the award of 'Nobel Prizes' used to evoke mixed responses and sharp reactions when they were announced, specially for peace and literature.

After the Second World War, the use of 'politics' as a wily weapon was resorted to both in the UN as well as outside, no matter whether it meant the debarring of recalcitrant South Africa from participation in all regional and international sports competitions or boycotting of Olympics by the then super-powers and their political allies. Of course, when South Africa was expelled from the membership of International Olympic Association, nearly three decades ago, for its blatant and boorish policy of apartheid, the guiding spirit behind the expulsion was a belated but genuine concern for racial equality and human dignity of all irrespective of their colour and creed. This decision by the international fraternity was in response to the obduracy of the South African white minority government that had practised the abominable policy of racial discrimination in its most heinous and hideous hues. And now with the gradual dismantling of 'apartheid' the expulsion has been revoked.

Nearer home, the hydra-headed phenomenon of 'politics in sports' tells a different story, full of plots and

sub-plots, wheels-within-wheels coupled with comic-pathetic dimensions and dilemmas leading to ridiculously low levels of performances and achievements of our athletes and sports-persons. Strangely enough, like a time-respected ritual, after every drubbing and dashing of hopes, a committee/commission is appointed to go into the causes of our dismal showing and suggest ways and means to rid ourselves of the rubbish and rueful results in future. By the time the next 'meet' arrives the report of the previous inquiry committee is conveniently and consciously put under the carpet as if nothing had happened and our canny consciences are as clear as the sky on a starry night.

Unfortunately, we have allowed the monster of politics such a free entry in all walks of our social, cultural and extra-curricular life that for the protagonists of this diabolic drama no holds are barred and no price is too high and heavy to use sports as a spring-board to cross all hurdles to reach the summit of recognition and VIP status.

To the much trained and motivated sports-persons the highly coveted medal may prove a mirage or a distant dream to realise but to a politician, with a few exceptions apart no obstacle is too high to cross and no difficulty too big to surmount so long as he can manoeuvre the course of events and levers of power in his favour with means, fair or foul. His possessive passion to be in the selection/screening committee is too strong to be resisted and it means a fig for him; the sport in whose name he is ruling the roost, may go to the dogs. To a cynic, the highest value to be cultivated in the present-day free-for-all scenario is to feed and breed the cult of 'nuisance value'. What a

fall!

Whether the fiesta is Olympics, Asiad, Afro-Asian Games, Commonwealth Games or even SAARC jamboree of athletic competitions, the shadow of politics over the Indian contingent is more than obvious. And if the performance and preparedness of our contingents fall below all levels of expectations and aspirations, the usual uproar takes place in the media as well as in other form of public opinion but soon all is forgiven and forgotten. It makes no difference to the health of 'powers that be' that the country's prestige has taken a nose-dive due to the manipulations of those who have nothing to do with sports and their promotion.

How the 'Sports Federations' meetings end in fracas, exchange of hot words and blows, charges and counter-charges, court litigations etc, is a matter that calls for immediate remedial measures if Indian sports and sports-men are to make their niche in the comity of nations and prove their mettle.

It is hardly a matter of consolation and comforts if a few individuals, of their own dedication and devotion, have shown promising potency and proclivity whereas the bulk of our talent has been allowed to deteriorate and decay for no fault of theirs. In the all-pervasive atmosphere of 'political interference' and disgusting results on the scoreboard staring us in the face, the sane voice of a former Secretary-General of IOA should be both timely and touching: "Sport must be kept free from politics. We cannot let politicians bully and subjugate the national sports federation and State Olympic associations. We live in a democracy and democratic values have to be upheld."

MODEL PARAGRAPHS

The most seditious is the most cowardly.

Incitus

The most seditious is the one who is the most secretive. He conceives his schemes in darkness and plants their execution in obscurity. He is cunning enough to carry out his sinister designs through the credulous and the gullible. With the gift of his gab, he impresses the strangers first who become his firm followers afterwards. It is very rare that anyone can see through his game of hide and seek. Thus his seditious nature succeeds in concealing his cowardice and he keeps on enjoying the confidence of all those who have been taken in by his glib tongue and radical ideas. He is adept in the strategy of hitting below the belt lest he is discovered and exposed. It is doubtful if such a person who is highly seditious and malignant in nature and cowardly at heart, is true to the cause for which he incites and initiates others to join him in the (mis)adventure, the outlines and objectives of which are known only to him.

Goodness becomes a lame virtue, if along with it there is no courage to endure everything

—M K Gandhi

'To be good' is a virtue worthy of emulation and commendation but to become good by cultivating courage and conviction is to rise above the multitude. In a life beset with thorns and thurshies, challenges and chagrins, one cannot remain indifferent and complacent in the half-baked belief that mere goodness will help him cross the whirl-pool or face the whirl-wind of worldly knocks and kicks. In order to rise to the occasion and take the bull by the horns, we must learn to endure all types of sufferings and sorrows that may intimidate and

scare us. Goodness is not an abstract virtue only, it has to be active, creative and many a time curative also. By sitting in an ivory tower, cut off from the social surroundings and its myriad mazes, one may hope to escape the rigorous realities of life but one can not claim the credit of having learnt the lessons of life. Goodness becomes gold when it passes through the fiery tests and tribulations of life and is ever prepared to face the onslaughts of life with patience, poise and endurance. These virtues can be had not for the mere asking but by befriending courage and combating cowardice of every colour.

Nobody can acquire honour by doing what is wrong.

— Thomas Jefferson

Right or wrong, good or bad, virtue or sin—these are some of the attributes of human psyche and character that make or mar his standing in the social milieu where he lives. However noble or virtuous his intentions may be, it is his actions that will determine his place in the hearts of people because no accolades are given to those who resort to questionable means to achieve their ends. 'Ends must justify the means' is the golden rule of life. How much one acquires in life is not that important as to 'how one acquires it'. No dirty drain can add to the lustre of a river and no muddy river can contribute to the splendour of a sea. Similarly a wrong act cannot bring honour to the wrong doer, although it may bring some glittering gain or illusory elevation for a while. To become honourable in life, one has to be above board. One should not only act well but also should seem to have acted right all the time. Those who plot to earn honour

through deceit, double-talk and double-deal, live in a fool's paradise, for no honourable citadel was ever built on faulty foundations and wavering walls.

We should strive not to live long but to live rightly

Seneca

'Quality and not quantity' should be the guiding and goading motto of life because what matters in the ultimate analysis is not the length of life that we hope to live but the nature and contours of existence that we try to improve and enrich. The trait of an oak tree is its long but barren presence but that of a rose is its short and fragrant manifestation. The former provokes cynicism whereas the latter inspires appreciation and gaiety in the observer. The one has the dubious characteristic of evoking revulsion whereas the other has the gift of exciting revelry and revelation. Men have been judged not for the longevity of their existence but for the quality and excellence of their lives. It is the grace of living that imparts direction and distinction to an otherwise dull and drab life. The saints and sages of the hoary past looked upon life as the trust of God and impressed upon generations to come to treat life not as a tool 'to eat, drink and be merry' but as a mission, the loftiness of which was the only incentive and motivation for which we are born, bred and blessed on this earth. How ridiculous it looks when people are found praying for a long but not for a purposeful life. Men of clay, flesh and bones, as we are, we fall for a living that is cosy and comfortable, however erratic and ephemeral its contents and curves may be. As human beings, we should strive to live to the best of our ability.

End of Non-alignment?

Recent actions by India in the international arena indicate that this country is no longer non-aligned. India is in any case not a leader of the non-aligned world now. It seems inclined more and more to vote in favour of resolutions sponsored by the US at the United Nations. The proposition for discussion is: India has abandoned its traditional policy of non-alignment.

Mr A Sir, it has become obvious that international relations around the world are undergoing a change. They are, in fact, in a state of flux. Old friendships and commitments have been clean forgotten and new links are being established in pursuance of self-interest and in order to carry out the adjustments necessitated by the fast-changing conditions. Non-alignment seems to have become an obsolete concept. It was a movement that played an active role during the Cold War. India kept herself aloof from the military blocs and pursued an independent policy. It firmly established itself as a leader of the non-aligned countries and many countries of the Third World followed its lead with the result that over 100 countries joined NAM. But during the past one year or so, India has adopted a new stand at the United Nations which shows that it has modified its foreign policy which is undergoing readjustments regardless of the fact that these violate the long-standing policy of non-alignment. India's support to US-sponsored UN resolutions has been unmistakable. There was the vote on the resolution on Zionism, followed by talk of establishing diplomatic relations with Israel, unmindful of the impact this action would have on the Arab world and on its decades-old support to the cause of Palestine. The resolution equated Zionism with

racism, thus putting Israel on the same footing as South Africa. Both these decisions in effect backed the US policy. Such backing was considered highly improbable only a few years ago. The third move is indicative of full support to the United States. So is the vote against Libya signifying opposition to international terrorism. The motion was sponsored by three important countries—the United States, Britain and France. India has always been firmly opposed to terrorism; it has itself suffered heavily from this evil in J & K and Punjab, not to mention some other States where also terrorists and militants have done havoc to civilian life and property. The resolution deplored Libya's refusal to hand over two of its nationals accused of causing explosions in a US and a French airliner in 1988 and 1989 which killed a total of 440 persons. In fact, Libya's track record in respect of terrorism is outrageous. So what India has done is fully justified, non-alignment or no non-alignment. Each move was dictated by considerations of justice.

Mr B My predecessor Mr A, has argued that India has violated the basic tenets of non-alignment by voting in favour of the resolutions moved by the US and two other western countries. I would like to point out that the founders of non-alignment never favoured acts of terrorism and injustice. Jawaharlal Nehru clearly said that terrorism itself is a clear violation of human rights. These rights non-alignment has always supported. If India had voted for Libya it would have implied support, though indirect, to acts of terrorism and the blatant use of force. Moreover, Libya has backed Pakistan several times in respect

of the Kashmir issue. As for the racism and Zionism resolution, two factors have played a part in determining India's line of action. One, racism is on its way out. This is indicated by the notable shift in the South African Government's policy on apartheid. The new South African President, Mr De Klerk, has taken several steps to end apartheid and racism. India has even accepted South Africa on the cricket field, before leaving for the Australian tour the Indian cricketers played a South African team in three matches. India has undeniably lost its high moral posture on certain major issues. New Delhi seems to have ignored the fact that a Libyan dignitary recently conceded that his Government had made a mistake in describing Kashmir as an unsettled issue. When a country admits its mistake, there is no point in ignoring its admission and taking note only of the earlier posture. Again, Libya has renounced the policy of State-sponsored terrorism and has made known its intention to put on trial the two men guilty of destroying the US and British aircraft. To remove doubts about a fair trial, a contention made by the western countries, Libya has proposed that they could send legal experts to Libya to watch the trial of the guilty men. It has also to be noted that other enlightened powers also condemned acts of terrorism committed by Libya and other countries. So what India has done is precisely what other NAM and Arab League countries would have done. Since India has been asking the international community to condemn and help check Pakistan-sponsored acts of terrorism in J & K, how could it vote against the US resolution on Libya in the Security Council?

Mr C I believe that India has made a mistake in voting for the resolution sponsored by the US in the UN Assembly. The implications are serious enough to demand careful thought. The follow up of the resolution, that is due implementation and the consequential commitments, must not be bypassed. If at the instance of the US, the Security Council favours sanctions against Libya as a logical step, will India follow suit? Economic sanctions may have to be followed by other types of sanctions, to which India is generally allergic, as was indicated by this country's refusal to contribute units to the US dominated military forces of western nations operating against the Iraqi regime of President Saddam Hussein about 18 months ago. Surely, India will not join airstrikes against Libya's cities and various facilities. We must not play into the hands of President Bush who seeks one platform and then another to promote his chances in the next Presidential election in his country due to be held after a few months. Why indeed should India become a tool in the hands of the US President? It needs to be noted that now the word non alignment does not occur forcefully in the foreign policy statements made by India's External Affairs ministry spokesmen, except for form's sake. I also feel sure that nations which would not have voted against Libya in the United Nations are among those who have not suffered from the menace of terrorism. India has been among the major victims of terrorism. Libya has in effect been put on probation for good conduct, but it is unlikely to mend its ways. Not long ago, almost the entire world, except some close allies of Col Gaddafi, deplored the terrorists' depredations which caused the deaths of numerous innocent people. In recent months, terrorism has been on the decline, except in Kashmir. So India had to march in line with the others. It has shown that it is no longer a faithful, un-

flinching and faithful votary of NAM. Libya and Iraq are among the NAM members and yet India did not hesitate to vote against these countries whose leaders defied world conscience and acted arbitrarily.

Mr D My predecessors, Mr B and Mr C, have not made any reference to the explanations and clarifications given by Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman who visited India in the third week of January. Speaking in Delhi on January 21 Arafat virtually approved India's possible upgradation of diplomatic relations with Israel. 'Exchange of ambassadors and recognition of States are acts of sovereignty in which I cannot interfere' he said. He respected any choice made by the Government of India. 'Our relations with India are so strong that they cannot be affected by other things.' The Palestinians, especially Mr Yasser Arafat, have always enjoyed firm Indian support for their cause. As far as India was concerned, he added, it had never severed relations with Israel since 1951. This country has political relations with Israel since then, though in low profile. Asked about India's vote in the UN General Assembly on the resolution to delete from the 1976 Resolution 3379 the sentence "Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination", Mr Arafat recalled that it had been agreed to suspend revocation of this sentence until next year so that we could go for it with an agreement on Palestinian homeland in our hands. But President Bush lobbied widely and pushed it through the UN at the last moment. Nehru often spoke of the moral approach of India to world problems in general. It was supposed that Indian culture is superior to the Western culture. Both these assumptions have proved erroneous, and also the belief that India can do without force. These assumptions formed the basis of non-alignment. When the basic planks have proved untenable, what

relevance has non-alignment, especially after the end of the Cold War and of the Big Power conflicts? Moreover, we have been arming ourselves with a vengeance. India has not said farewell to NAM, only there is a perceptible change in the international arena and in the composition of pressure groups and in the compulsions worldwide.

Mr E My predecessor, Mr D, has quoted at length from the speech delivered by Mr Arafat in Delhi in January this year, but I would like to focus attention on another observation made by the PLO Chairman. Asked about his reaction to India's gesture towards Israel, Mr Arafat said though he had no objection to the move but such recognition from a country which he considers not only friendly but also brotherly, should come only after the outcome of the West Asian talks when Palestinian people have secured some concessions. "Our land is still occupied" he said, implying that until Israel vacates aggression, it should not be recognised diplomatically. India, strictly speaking, should not establish relations with Israel as long as the latter remains the aggressor. That would be in line with the foreign policy, including non-alignment, which it has been following in Asia and else where.

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The Will To Succeed

Life is not anything; it is only the opportunity to do something.

—Hebbel.

What is Success?

SUCCESS consists in doing and accomplishing things. It is the accomplishment of an end aimed at. It is doing one's best to make the most of oneself. It is not something that can be measured in relation to the accomplishments of others. It is an individual matter and must always be determined by the degree in which a specific person has attained his own highest potentialities.

A Goal

THE first success factor is the formulation of a goal. The general causes of our mediocrity in performance or our failure in accomplishment are not lack of ability, unwillingness to work, or indifference or lack of earnestness. The real cause is that we do not formulate specific, concrete goals towards which to direct our efforts. We aim our efforts at vague generalizations, and not at bull's-eye. Always specify your goal in such a way that it has four characteristics. (1) It is specific; (2) It is positive; (3) It is realistic; and (4) It locates the goal within some environment or situation. Occasionally it is necessary to break the end goal into sub-goals and set periodic goals to achieve the targeted end-goal gradually.

Passion

TO attain your goal pursue it single-mindedly and with passion and strong enthusiasm, which moves heaven and earth. As Emerson has put it, "nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." The father of modern psychology, William James, expressed this point beautifully: "In almost any subject your passion for the subject will save you. If you only care enough for a result, you will most certainly attain

it. If you wish to be rich, you will be rich; if you wish to be learned, you will be learned, if you wish to be good, you will be good. Only you must then really wish these things and not wish them with exclusiveness and not wish at the same time a hundred other incompatible things just as strong."

To pursue a goal passionately is the best possible assurance of success in it. If there is a way to success, passion finds it and is cowed by few difficulties or obstacles. It enlists the whole body and soul of man to achieve its coveted objectives.

The American motion picture pioneer, Samuel Goldwyn, used to say, "No person who is enthusiastic about his work had anything to fear from life." Passion is the indispensable condition or qualification for a great achievement. "We may affirm", says Hegel, "absolutely that nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion." Passion is the prime success factor. All other needed factors follow as a matter of course in its wake.

Driving Force

CLOSELY related to passion is driving force that there is no gain without work.

The old saying has it, "Through hardship to the stars." Anyone can be successful if he is prepared to pay the price for it. But the price you have to pay is a continual one. If you stop paying the price when you have achieved some success, then you will slip back. It means that the driving force has gone and the price is no longer being paid. The trouble with some people is that they want to get to the promised land without going through the wilderness.

"Pay for it and take it", said Emerson. Everything worthwhile has a price and to make it meaningful we must pay that price. Beware of the

philosophy of "Something for nothing". Two young men of equal abilities start in the business world at the same time. One remains stuck in a small job all his life, while the other climbs to the top in his trade. What is the difference? Just this, the one who was stuck refused to pay the price of success.

Courage

ANOTHER essential success factor is courage. Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Camus and Sartre have proclaimed that courage is not the absence of *despair*, it is rather the capacity to move ahead *in spite of despair*. It is the willingness to confront fear. It means flying in the face of criticism, relying on yourself, being willing to accept and learn from the consequences of your choices. Courage is the recognition that failure is a genuine possibility and that absolute certainty is an illusion. This is what Sydney Smith said about courage: "A great deal of talent is lost in the world for want of a little courage. Everyday sends to their graves obscure men whom timidity prevented from making a great effort, who, if they could have been induced to begin, would in all probability have gone great lengths in the career of fame. The fact is that to do anything in the world worth doing, we must not stand back shivering and thinking of the cold and danger, but *jump in and scramble through as well as we can*. It will not do to be perpetually calculating risks and adjusting nice changes, but at present a man waits, and doubts and consults his brother, and his particular friends, till one day he finds he is 60 years old and that he has lost so much time in consulting cousins and friends that he has no more time to follow their advice."

As Core Harris advises, "The bravest thing you can do when you are not brave is to profess courage

and act accordingly." The idea of professing courage is sound because the important thing to do is to act, rather than to try to convince yourself of how brave you are or aren't at any given moment. Self pity does no one any good.

Success Visualization

THE effectiveness of the foregoing success factors will be greatly enhanced if you visualize yourself as a success and act accordingly several times a day. Success or failure in any enterprise is caused more by mental attitude than by mental capacities. The success attitude magnetizes success, the failure attitude, failure. Conduct yourself as if you were what you want to be. As Shakespeare wrote in "Hamlet", "Assume a virtue if you have it not." Build up a very vivid picture of yourself behaving in the way you want to behave, being the sort of person you want to be and let this image drift into your mind. On this plus success factor Dr H.E. Stanton observes, "Perhaps the greatest power we have as human beings is to use our imagination to help us change in the ways we want to change...The way to do this would appear to be to create in one's mind an image of the person one wants to be. The value of this approach...has been repeatedly affirmed in my own therapy."

Firmly fix in your mind what you would like to do, and when, without veering off course, you will move straight to your goal. Preserve the success attitude. All things come through desire. We become like that on which our hearts are fixed. Set your heart on a goal, visualize its attainment, work for it like blazes, give it that little extra, and with God's help you will achieve it.

Persistence

THE spirit behind the above success factors is the unbending spirit called persistence. It enables you to hold on when there is nothing in you except the will which says to you, "Hold On". The magic formula of success is: *Never let down! Never let up!* Give up your giving up and replace it with dogged persistence. If you persist and follow up tirelessly,

never even entertaining the idea of being put off, then you will almost always emerge not only having reached your goal, but often having far exceeded your initial expectations.

In the art of success there is no substitute for persistence. The slogan 'Press On' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.

Open-mindedness

YET another vital success factor is open-mindedness, the ability and willingness to learn from our errors, no matter how painful they may be. The only complete mistake is the mistake from which we learn nothing. Samuel Smiles remarks, "We often discover what *will* do, by finding out what *will not* do; and probably he who never made a mistake never made a discovery."

As the Overstreets have it: "Man is a mistake-maker. This fact points out our obligation to let one another make a normal quota of mistakes, acknowledge them, learn from them and move beyond them, keeping intact, all the while, a reasonable self-respect and self-confidence." Don't make the same mistake twice. It is better to look forward and to make new mistakes than to look back and do nothing. The worst mistake you can make is to lose your initiative. It is the man who keeps on who climbs to the top rung of the ladder.

The Will to Succeed

SUCCESS comes to the person who has the will to succeed. It is no bonanza, it does not come as a gift of heaven. It is the end product of our own efforts. It is the result of our will to succeed. The individual who has the will to succeed takes charge of his success. He knows what he wants and he plans the steps by which to achieve it. He directs and bends the force of his life to the attainments of his goals. He does not expect fate to throw success in his lap, nor does he rely on other people to give it to him. He knows what he wants, and he regulates his daily actions to attain it. He succeeds because he has the will to succeed. At the back of 99 out of 100 assertions that a thing cannot be

done is nothing but unwillingness to do it.

When you attempt to do a thing you should do it with a will and be confident that you will succeed. You should act as if it were impossible to fail. It is will-power that makes the dreams come true. Don't pray for lighter burdens but for stronger backs.

Do Your Best

ANOTHER success factor is "Do your best, and leave the rest." "Success for any sane adult", says Doratha Brand, "is exactly equivalent to doing his best. What best may be, what its farthest reaches may include, we can discover only by *freeing ourselves from the will to fail.*"

In his autobiography "Unfinished journey" the great violinist, Yehudi Menuhin, says: "Striving to do my best I have found fulfilment." "Perfection", he adds, "cannot be achieved unless its pursuit becomes a way of life."

At no given point can a sincere and developing person feel that he has 'arrived'. For, success is a journey, not a location.

Be Friendly

TO live successfully with your environment you need friends, real friends. Associate yourself with people who bring you out. Some people inspire a style. They make you witty or thoughtful or generous or sensible. They make you more like the person who wish to be. Search out such persons and cultivate their friendship. Do what you can for them and let them do things for you. You will find that your greatest social security lies in your friendships.

Efficiency

TO live successfully with your environment, you have got to be efficient. In other words, you have to learn to make the most economical use of time, space, energy and materials. Intelligent organisation of these ingredients means richer and more rewarding life. Without efficiency you are not likely to hit the bull's eye very often. Efficiency will increase your confidence and self-esteem.

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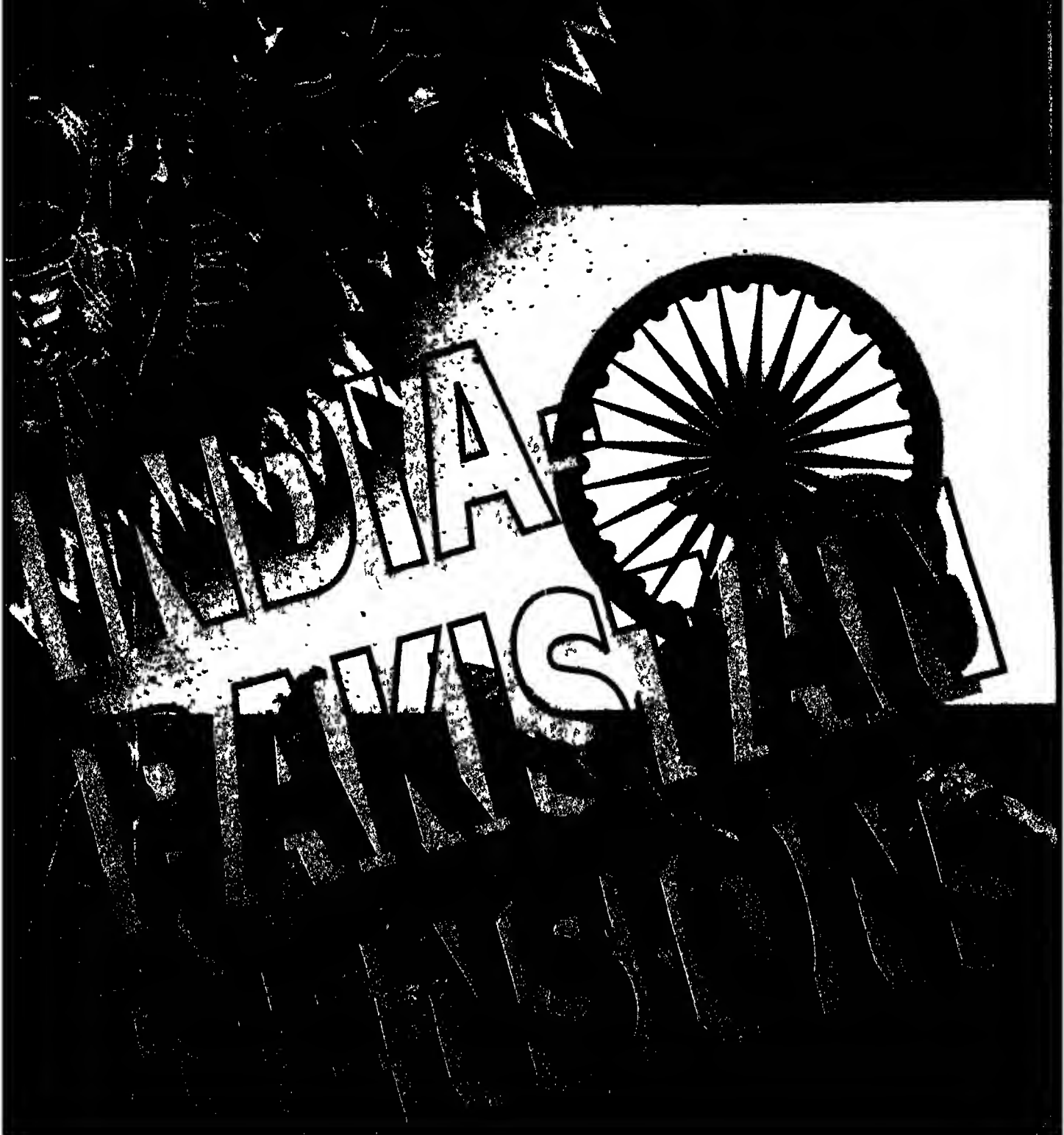
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READERS' FORUM

PAKISTAN'S N-BOMBS

Your special feature "Pakistan's 15 N-Bombs" in the March '92 issue is very informative. A low-ranking American Senator, Mr Pressler's statement during his recent Delhi visit is not a diplomatic victory of India against Pakistan. In fact, it is an American diplomatic trap in which India must not fall.

After the end of the Cold War and withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan, Pakistan is not an important country from the American strategic point of view. India is a very big market for American goods. The possibility of the emergence of a new Islamic confederation and its nuclear potential is an obvious danger for both New Delhi and Washington. Therefore, the U.S. seems to lean towards India. There is massive American pressure on New Delhi to agree to sign the NPT.

When China is a full-fledged nuclear power and Pakistan has crossed the nuclear threshold, India must not abandon its nuclear programme and never agree to sign the NPT.

We certainly stand for total destruction of all nuclear weapons in the world. If all nuclear powers agree to destroy their nuclear weapons, India would abandon its nuclear option.

Jumalpur Binay Kumar Mishra

Appropos of the article on nuclear weapons (Cover Feature, March '92), after the breakdown of the U.S.S.R., the new independent republics have their own share of the dreaded devices. However, Russia has two-thirds of all the nuclear weapons which the former U.S.S.R. possessed. Lack of jobs, shortage of food, soaring prices, economic crises and sharp difference among the republics—these are some important factors which can change the form of the republics. And if once the republics fall into the hands of fundamentalists, they would pose a threat to the U.S. because they can misuse the nuclear weapons.

Also, if the jobless atomic scientists of these republics (especially those of the Islamic ones) migrate to West Asia (some countries would welcome them), in the near future they would pose a problem to all the countries which want peace and also cause a headache to Mr Bush. Hence the U.N. should go deep into this problem.

Suway Khalid Hussam

Your Cover Story "India and China—New Perspectives" (Feb '92 issue) was interesting. The visit of the

Chinese Premier, Mr Li Peng, was not a 'luncheon' as far as India is concerned.

Past experience shows that the Chinese are untrustworthy. I wonder why the Government of India should get over-excited about this visit.

The visit of Mr Li Peng had nothing special. He did what he wanted to do. But the Government of India failed to break the toughness of the Chinese Premier. The Indian Government must tackle the Chinese with cleverness and diplomacy. After having interacted with Mr Li Peng and the Chinese delegation, our leaders should learn how to remain firm on sensitive issues.

Certainly we should not try to make friends at the cost of our dignity and prestige.

Bolanga (Orissa) Debadatta Panigrahi

Your editorial (Feb issue) "The legacy of Gorbachev" carries sound ideas about the top-knotch global statesman, Mikhail Gorbachev. I admire him very much because the steps he took were meant to bring about a historical change. The process of democratisation is proceeding rapidly all over the world. In this changing situation a great country like the U.S.S.R. must not remain backward in the quest for democracy. Gorbachev was the first 'Red' Russian to dream of the blissful moments of democracy. He is the first great Russian in world communist history to give his countrymen the original taste of freedom, and of the doctrine of democracy, but he was ignored and rebuffed. Perhaps the country was not ripe for full democracy.

Bhubaneswar Chanshram Sahoo

TERRORISM AND KIDNAPPINGS

Your special feature on "Terrorism and Kidnappings" is an exhaustive piece. In spite of the Government's efforts to curb the menace of terrorism, instead of getting reduced it is increasing day by day. Examples of such incidents can be had from recent newspaper reports. In A.P., Mr Nayagiriachari, a freedom fighter, was shot dead, and some prominent persons were kidnapped.

I feel that unless the issue is tackled at its roots, the present situation may even get aggravated.

Gulbarga Devendra Kumar

NOT A CLIENT STATE

With reference to write-up "India—USA's Client State" (in the argumentation, March issue) in my view it is not a fair remark on the recent tilt of New Delhi towards Washington.

In today's international arena, no one is a permanent friend or a permanent enemy; the only thing permanent is national interest. In 1950s, once Mr Nehru remarked to Mr Menon that if the U.S. could set up few in-

dustries for us, why not tilt a bit towards it? He was a staunch advocate of non-alignment. Now again, if U.S. is in a position to help India out of the economic crisis, why not tilt towards the USA, a bit? In such a course we have nothing to lose but have something to gain.

Dhanbad

Anup Kumar Singh

PROTECTIONISM IN U.S.

If the recent happenings are indicative of the latest trend in the U.S., protectionism is most likely to influence the U.S. trade laws in future. The recent hostility towards a Japanese company, eventually causing it to lose a \$122 million contract for rail cars in Los Angeles owing to local anti-foreign sentiments is one example. Granted that this incident is sporadic in nature and does not affect the overall trade between the U.S. and Japan, but the point is not of incidents but of the prevailing mood in the Western world.

Some Asian countries like Japan, S. Korea and Taiwan have shown that they can do even better than the West. The result is that there are fewer "Made in U.S.A." products in America now than ever before. What does the West do in such a situation? They come up with bright themes like the Structural Adjustment Initiative to cover up their protectionist intentions. European countries are very close to forming a trading bloc with the signing of the Maastricht Treaty.

One of the most important parts of the treaty is the Monetary Union which will soon become a reality. So why is the West opposed to the Third World and ASEAN blocs? Self-interest of course; what else?

Shillong

Bryan Iyngdoh

ADS. QUESTION

I read your letter on the ads. question (February '92 issue). As a reader of CM, I fully appreciate your position in this regard. As you have rightly pointed out, even a slight increase in the cost of the magazine has major repercussions on the readers.

I can honestly say that you are choosing the right type of ads. These ads. are informative and productive as far as careers are concerned. Through this type of ads, the quality of the magazine is in no way affected.

In my opinion, the "Competition Master" is a good and useful magazine.

Bolanga Debadatta Panigrahi

All the topics covered in your magazine are very informative and useful for students.

The write-up "The will to succeed" in Personality Test is very useful to students. Candidates who want to succeed in life are eager to get guidelines. So this feature is a boon to all of them.

Allahabad

Abdul Qadir Jaferi

Retrenchment by Another Name

DURING the past few months the Government of India's spokesmen have stressed the urgency of effecting a reduction in the total strength of the official establishment, including senior employees at various levels. The staff cut talked about is 10 to 20 per cent. The aim is to effect economy dictated by the resources crunch and the worsening financial crisis. But care is reportedly being taken to see that there is no "retrenchment" as such.

On March 3 the Union Finance Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, stated in the Rajya Sabha that the Government has no plans to retrench any of its employees, though surplus employees would be redeployed. "No retrenchment is being undertaken", the Finance Minister asserted. The Government, it is understood, is making every effort to cut out wasteful expenditure, particularly regarding travel and telephones.

As regards the staff, if some people are found surplus, they will be deployed elsewhere. "We will do it in such a manner that it does not cause needless suffering." Some saving will be made by abolishing 450 posts in the Department of Industries and the Directorate-General of Technical Development. A reduction of 20 per cent in the travelling allowance budget would save about Rs 25 crore annually. Many temporary employees will indeed be retrenched. There would be facility of redeployment for those who have completed three years service. They will be absorbed in future vacancies. The assumption is that there are hundreds of superfluous people in government offices without whose services work can be carried on. Why are superfluous staff recruited, one might ask? India's bureaucracy is undeniably bloated; the responsibility should be fixed for the waste of money and time.

A report published in a leading newspaper on March 6 disclosed that the UPSC is reassessing the strength of various Central services in keeping with the Government's endeavour to prune posts for reducing expenditure. The Prime Minister had recently announced

that there would be a gradual 10 per cent reduction in the posts in the government without dislocating the life of civil servants. Some posts of Secretaries and Additional Secretaries have already been retrenched. A few officials have been given additional charge of the work which was being done by the retired officers. The accent is stated to be on reducing the strength of government posts over a period of time.

It is all too apparent that in the coming years there would be fewer opportunities in the civil services for aspiring youth. Whenever there are some vacancies in certain departments, the first priority for appointments would be given to those who have been retrenched on one pretext or another. It would be wrong to say that there would be no new opportunities at all, but the fresh recruitment would certainly be less than normal.

This policy of partially streamlining the administration and removing the "fat" would result in financial savings. But retrenchment is retrenchment; there is no point in giving it other names. We hope the decisions in this regard would be implemented without favouritism and nepotism which, unfortunately, are quite common in this country. Wasteful expenditure should be avoided wherever it is found; after all, the national interests must be supreme. But we earnestly hope that all hardship would be avoided and that the Government would consider the question on merit and not fall a victim of vested interests.

Besides, employment opportunities must be provided to all retrenched hands by promoting the economic development process in backward areas. The Prime Minister has said that there would be ample opportunities for self-employment. For this purpose adequate financial and other resources would be required. It is to be hoped that the administration would give the highest priority to the problem of providing jobs for young men and women. If this is not done, there would be considerable frustration and the pattern of life would be dislocated to a disconcerting extent.

Commission for Women: Vital Talks Ahead

The newly set up National Commission for Women designed to ensure rapid improvement in the status and rights of women has to tackle a series of problems. Its composition has already become a subject of controversy. A prominent leader of women's organisations has described the choice of the Commission members as terribly disappointing. What will be the net outcome of this exercise?

A few weeks ago, the Government of India formed a Commission for Women under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, and also appointed a Commissioner to promote the same objectives. The Act was passed nearly two decades after women had raised the demand for the creation of a statutory body to monitor the implementation of legislation concerning women and to tighten laws to remove all loopholes in them.

The problems faced by women in India are so vast and varied that the National Commission for Women has a most challenging task ahead, according to Mrs Jayanti Patnaik, a veteran who fought for women's rights almost all her life. Her work as head of the new Commission, she said on February 10, 1992, would be part of the effort to ensure women their rights.

The struggle for women's rights is almost worldwide. The United Nations designated 1975 as "International Women's Year" in order to focus attention on the advancement of women all the world over. The special themes for the year were Equality, Development and Peace. The official UN emblem for the Women's Year was a stylised dove, the biological symbol for women, together with the mathematical sign for equality.

Explaining the significance of the International Year, the UN called upon member States to step up measures to promote equality to ensure full integration of women in the total development effort, especially by emphasising women's responsibility and important role in economic, social and cultural development, and to recognise women's increasing contribution to the strengthening of world peace. The UN Social and Humanitarian Committee unanimously adopted on December 7, 1975, a resolution for proclaiming the decade 1976-1985 as UN Decade for Women to be devoted to the 'World Plan for Action' to ensure women's equality in society.

In theory, women in India have several legal, including constitutional rights, but only a section of them are fully aware and enthusiastic about exercising these rights. Underlining the average Indian woman's awareness of the rights she is often denied, the Committee on the Status of Indian Women declared that it was up to the Government of India to ensure implementation of the constitutional rights and called for a national policy for the development of this wasted asset of 290 million citizens (this number is much larger now).

Hindrance to Development: Stressing the national implications of women's uplift, the then Chairman of the Committee stated that the backwardness of women was a serious impediment to development. The future of the family would also be jeopardised if the gap between men's and women's advancement continually widened. Equal rights for men and women were enshrined in the Constitution, but for the most part Indian society has been ignoring this fact. The notable exception is the enlightened section of the urban social

structure in general.

Due notice has to be taken of the fact that there are a series of laws on the statute book to protect and promote the rights of women, but the implementation is poor. The result is that the plight of women in large parts of the country remains pathetic. One of the priority tasks of the new Commission for Women is to ensure implementation of the existing laws concerning women. While laws to deal with social evils such as dowry, 'Sati' and indecent portrayal of women in the media (especially in newspapers, magazines and even censored films) exist, very often these laws are not implemented.

A detailed scrutiny has confirmed the widespread and well-founded impression that the laws to tackle the evils of dowry, "Sati", immoral traffic, etc., are ineffective. Nobody has claimed that these laws are having the desired result. To give teeth to these laws, the Union Government intends to amend them. The proposed amendments to the Dowry Prohibition Act and some other Acts have been finalised and the necessary Bills for amending these laws are expected to be introduced in Parliament during the current Budget session. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and the Indecent Representation (Prohibition) Act are being examined and attempts are being made to plug the loopholes so as to ensure that the basic aims are achieved.

It has been found after a thorough study of these laws, and of the few cases filed under them in the courts, that the punishment prescribed is not severe enough. The basic lacunae in these laws are to be removed. A multi-pronged programme has also been launched to tackle the increasing problem of ex-

plotation of adolescent girls, they will be trained for suitable employment

Discriminatory Practices: There is no doubt that life for most women in India and other developing countries is tough. Female children, according to a UN Report on Human Development, get less food, less health care, less education, less professional training and less pay even when they work for longer hours than men. In fact, there is discrimination against women in almost all areas of activity. There is also exploitation at every step.

Since the attainment of independence in 1947, several laws have been passed to check the discrimination and improve the condition of women. Among these laws are the Equal Remuneration Act and the Minimum Wages Act. There are also the Indian Penal Code provisions against murder, attempted murder and abetment in suicide. Even these legal provisions have not been very effective. Women are still being assaulted in urban as well as rural areas. Dowry deaths are on the increase in cities such as Delhi, despite all the high sounding assurances that effective steps would be taken by the Government to check the menace. Female infanticide also continues in certain areas, notably UP and Bihar. Even the highly obnoxious practice of Sati has not been totally eliminated (cases do occur in backward States such as Rajasthan).

Harijan women, in particular, still suffer from indignities. There is often considerable humiliation in homes. Selfish people take maximum advantage of women's helplessness. Most of the time women do not raise loud protests and suffer silently.

Injustice in political arena: It is a pity that even political parties, ever seeking votes, deny women justice and equal treatment. We find very few women in Parliament and in the State Assemblies, the number of women in the legislatures is totally disproportionate to their strength in the country's population. Therefore, several women's organisations appealed to various political parties contesting the last general election held in June 1991 in a bid to ensure

that women are given proper representation and women's issues are accorded adequate attention. The effort proved largely fruitless.

The charter of demands jointly prepared by Action India, Ankur, Jagori, Joint Women's Programme, Kali for Women, Saheli, Shakti, Shalini and other women's organisations urged the political parties to reserve 50 per cent of the seats for women in every election and in the decision making bodies. The National Commission on Women, the charter said, should be made functional within six months of the elections and similar structures should be created at the State level.

It was also suggested that funds for development of women should be earmarked in all sectors and the Department of Women should be made independent. Cells should be set up in every department of the Government as well as the Planning Commission to ensure that funds allocated for women are properly utilised. These cells should be made accountable to the National Commission on Women. The number of women elected to Parliament over the years tells the story effectively: 1952 elections—22, 1957—27, 1962—34, 1967—31, 1971—22, 1977—16, 1980—28, 1984—42, 1989—27. The number of women put up as candidates was totally inadequate. Even in the 1991 poll the same story was repeated. The lessons of history have been repeatedly ignored and the indifference towards women's representation persists.

Women constitute between 45 to 50 per cent of the country's total electorate. In some cases, in both Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies, women electors outnumber men. The following figures are quite revealing: in 1980 there were 185,210,315 men, 170,380,385 women in a total electorate of 355,590,700; in 1984 there were 196,730,499 men and 182,810,109 women in a total of 379,540,608. In 1989 there were 262,045,142 men and 236,861,287 women in a total of 498,906,429. The number of women contestants was also low: 1980—151 (only 28 elected). In 1984 the contestants were 164 women and 42 were elected. In 1989, 198 women candidates contested and

only 27 were elected.

Remedies: Political parties should be persuaded to set up more women candidates. Strong public opinion should be built up in this regard, since men will not agree to a cut in their own share, women should organise themselves more effectively to pursue their case, dedicated women possessing the requisite enthusiasm should become more active instead of spending most of their spare time in drawing-rooms and in idle talk.

It is indeed a pity that all the commitments made to women regarding their rights and representation in the Parliament, State legislatures and in municipal bodies are forgotten by politicians when they assume power. A couple of years ago a firm commitment was made by the then Prime Minister that there would be at least 30 per cent seats for women in various local bodies at all levels and in the legislatures. In very few cases has this been done. Empowerment of women at all levels to participate effectively in the political process is necessary in order to create an equalitarian society in India.

Another dismal aspect of the situation is the increase in crime against women even in the country's capital—Delhi. Against 159 cases of molestation, 161 rapes, 336 cases of cruelty by husbands and 109 by in-laws and 109 dowry deaths in 1989, there were 176 molestations, 179 rapes, 341 in-law casualties and 116 dowry deaths in 1990. These figures are almost certainly under-estimates because of the social stigma attached to such outrages and the consequent reluctance to report cases to the police. With criminal gangs roaming the streets and dark corners, often with political support, crime against women in male-dominated society is inevitable.

In Western countries, especially in the USA, also crime has been on the increase. On current showing, rapid improvement in the position and status of women is unlikely even after the new Commission starts functioning actively.

The basic problem is of attitudes and of general feeling. The sense of superiority of the male has to be discarded. There should be a total revolution in thinking in this sphere.

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Of many easy techniques to improve your memory in my book, I briefly explain two techniques below:

1. Without revision, we forget 82% in 24 hours. We remember only 18% after 24 hours.

It clearly shows that you must revise. I teach you my techniques called "Systematic Revision" and "Daily Routine" which are based on scientific research.

You will also learn to read faster and to take memorable notes. So, you will revise faster and remember more in less time

2. Scientific research tells us that we should not study continuously for long time. But, for better memory, we should take rest/break. I teach you my technique called "Break Routine" to get the maximum benefit from the breaks. This technique relaxes you, changes your brain waves, and puts you in a "learning state".

From today, for better memory, you should revise more often, and also take rest/break when you study.

Read Less to Study More in Less Time

Many of us read only 100 words per minute. The book will teach you the "finger technique" which will prove to you in 30 minutes that you can double your reading speed. By reading faster, you will be able to revise more in less time. So, you will remember more in less time.

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— Prof J J Nigam, Dy Director, Birla Inst of Tech & Science, Pilani

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— Rajnikant Dikshit, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh)

• "New approach ... Very effective and easy techniques for increasing the mental power, which is proved clinically also ... It shows that there is no mental limitation. Sure this is an ideal book for students & professionals"

— Dr B L Dole, MBBS, MS, RNT Medical College, Udaipur

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— Ravi Ramakrishnan, student class XII, Bombay

• "I have no words to thank your book ... made things so simple that I can not believe. I improved my reading speed from 80 words to 300 words per minute in just two days. Mind maps and Sri Yantra surely very useful and effective. My heartfelt thanks."

— Ashok K Mishra, student BSc II, Una (UP)

• "Really, this book is a bible for everybody."

— Mahesh Singh, student, New Delhi

• "Techniques are simple, fast, and easy. Unbelievably, I improved my reading speed from 75 to 200 words per minute. My son (class 4) improved his memory. He also improved his reading speed from 45 to 100."

— Prof M Bhattacharya, PAF, Subhadranya Udaipur formerly in USA

• "Helped me like a boon. First day, I improved my reading efficiency from 100 to 210 words per minute."

— Subash Chandra Sahoo, student, Gaya (Bihar)

• "Your book is really a miracle."

— Ramesh N, Chelakkara (Kerala)

• "Very useful to me. Thank you very much."

— Jyotendra Raj Shukla, student, Tanzen (Nepal)

• "I increased reading speed from 170 to 375."

— Rameshwar Ration, PMT student, Kangra (Himachal Pradesh)

• "With your book, I got many more marks than before."

— Sudhir Sharma, B.E. 3rd semester, Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh)

class-room, or correspondence? • Is it better to study early in the morning or late in the night? • Which vitamins can help your brain function better and improve your IQ? The book will answer such questions.

13 Powerful Chapters in the Book

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2. Exam Secrets for Getting More Marks • Do not eat just before an exam • How do examiners correct answer papers, and how to use this knowledge to get more marks • For two types of questions, you can even fool the examiner • Would you like to try mega-vitamins to boost your intelligence temporarily during exam-days • 4 more topics

3. Read Faster and Understand Better • Understanding and taking care of your eyes • Experience your mind power as a magnet • Expanding your peripheral vision • 2 more topics

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Restructuring the U.N.

The need to change the structure of the United Nations is now being widely recognised. Several suggestions have been made in this regard. The composition and powers of the Security Council, in particular, have been under critical examination. A strong case has been made out for inclusion of India and Japan in the Security Council. What are the prospects of the envisaged reforms in the world organisation?

THERE is a sharp difference of opinion on the question whether the U.N. has truly and adequately fulfilled its aims and objects of maintaining peace and preventing wars. At the first summit of the Security Council held in New York on January 31, 1992, several world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to collective security to deal with the threats to peace and to reverse acts of aggression. They pledged to strengthen the U.N. role in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. They undertook to avoid excessive and destabilising accumulations and transfer of arms, and to resolve peacefully any problems threatening or disrupting the maintenance of regional and global security.

The basic purpose of convening the summit, as explained by the British Prime Minister, Mr John Major, who had sponsored the summit was to set the post-Cold War agenda for the U.N. So they asked the Secretary-General, Mr Boutros Ghali, to submit by July 1 this year his analysis and recommendations on ways of strengthening the capacity of the world body for preventive diplomacy, for peace-making and peace-keeping. A declaration read out by the British Prime Minister at the end of the summit expressed the commitment of the members to take concrete steps to enhance the effectiveness of the UN in the fields of

disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

The summit declaration seems unexceptionable but such is the extent of mutual suspicions and the resultant tensions that it took several days for the leaders and their aides to hammer out the declaration. Even then, several members conceded that the declaration does not reflect full consensus. India too had her reservations. Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao clearly stated that "the declaration does not reflect one or two of India's crucial concerns". Even so, the document was important and it certainly needs to be followed up by more specific commitments and actions. The world has had far too many generalisations and high-sounding pronouncements and too few concrete steps.

The declaration did not touch on the suggestions to reform the world body and improvement of its financial position. Moreover, it needs to be noted that the absence of military conflicts among the States does not by itself ensure international security. The non-military sources of instability in the economic, social, humanitarian and ecological fields have become threats to peace and security, the declaration said, and urged that the highest priority be given to this aspect. Since the proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction constitutes a threat to international peace and security, the declaration commits the members to work towards preventing the spread of technology related to research or production of such weapons.

U.N. Renaissance: In his annual report to the General Assembly, the former Secretary-General, Mr Perez de Cuellar, spoke of the renaissance of the United Nations. The end of the Cold War, the upheavals in the Soviet

Union and East Europe and the wave of democracy that swept other parts of the world made U.N. missions possible as would have been unthinkable in the past. A decade ago, on assuming office as the Secretary-General, Mr De Cuellar spoke of the erosion of authority and status of the UN and the inaction of the Security Council in the face of conflicts. Fearing international anarchy, he suggested several ways to make the Council, and, along with it, the Secretary-General more effective in keeping peace. The importance of the Security Council as the main executive body can hardly be over-emphasised. It plays a highly important role, as was evident in 1990 when it speedily passed a series of resolutions against Iraq and execution of the Gulf War, mostly at the instance of the USA. Differences among the members of the Security Council came out into the open soon after the January 31, 1992, Council summit. The disagreements were over the French and the Anglo-American ideas which could have serious implications for Anglo-American plans for the UN's peace-making and peace-keeping roles.

With the Americans and the British on one side and the French on the other, things have become complicated over who should control the proposed UN forces—which would be assigned the role of the world's policemen. The NATO countries enjoy a weightage in the Security Council. This reflects the post-war power structure which has, in the view of the majority of the UN members, become outdated. Since the Third World lacks unity and cohesion, the NATO bloc has been able to retain its privileged position. The two rival sides differ on the role of the Military Staff Council Committee consisting of senior officers of the five permanent members of the

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Security Council It is considered highly unlikely that the USA and Britain would give up their privileged position on peace keeping

India's case The general expectation is that it will take a year or more to expand the Security Council but there has been much speculation on the prospects of induction of new permanent members such as India in order to bring the UN power centre in line with the changing times. Several reasons are given in favour of such expansion. Foremost there are the realities of the political situation. Britain and France no longer enjoy the power they once did. Germany and Japan have emerged as the leading economic powers. Like these two countries, India, the world's largest democracy, certainly deserves a permanent seat. At present about 100 developing nations are not represented among the permanent members. African nations have no voice there nor the emerging regional powers like India, Brazil and Nigeria. There have been several proposals for expansion of the Security Council. The urgency of the matter was stressed during the General Assembly session in December, 1991. The speakers urged that decisions affecting the unrepresented areas of the world were on the anvil and that the system must therefore be updated.

Non-aligned countries like Algeria, Argentina and Sri Lanka have repeatedly emphasised that the Council membership should be raised from the present 15 to 21 so as to make this vital body fully representative and take into account the post-colonial realities. Italy's suggestion is for addition of more permanent members on the basis of population, Gross National Product or contribution to the UN funds without however giving them the right of veto. The General Assembly decided in December last that if these criteria are adopted, the choice should fall on Japan, Germany, India and Brazil. The issue will probably be taken up again during the 1992 session of the General Assembly. Be-

cause of the extensive support they command, Japan and Germany will probably be taken on the Council earlier than India whose entry is opposed by Pakistan and some other countries.

Japan's Plea: Japan has been trying to secure a permanent seat in the Council because it wishes to serve the world from a permanent position in its management core now occupied by only five members. It believes it can perform its world duties better with a share in that core of power. The second reason given by Japan is that it is the second largest payer of the UN bills (after the USA whose dues are often in arrears) and it is also an economic super power. So it deserves a role matching its status. There is, however, a section of society in that country which feels that Japan must not press its claims at the UN on the basis of its economic power. Japan has been making efforts to establish cordial relations with its Asian neighbours. This effort might suffer a setback. Japan could make a solid contribution through technology and expertise. It has been elected a record number of times (seven) as a non-permanent member of the Council.

The US has a bleak record as a member of the UN. In its 45 years of existence the UN has been used more often than not as a tool for pursuing US foreign policy goals. An overwhelming number of Security Council resolutions were vetoed by the USA and Britain. Most of these had little or nothing to do with the Cold War but were supporting anti-colonial struggles in the Third World. Moreover, the USA's lack of full support to ILO, UNESCO, the International Court of Justice and WHO has helped to undermine the UN system.

Indian spokesmen have more than once pointed out that there should be a wider application of the democratic principle in the decision-making procedures of the UN organisation. At present, equality and democratic decision-making are absent in the functioning of the world organisation generally and of the Security Council in particular. The

Council's five permanent members have been conferring frequently to coordinate in advance their line of action, thus virtually determining the shape of things in vital arenas.

Some modification is also urgently needed in respect of the veto power. Absolute right of veto in defiance of the majority of international opinion is undeniably undemocratic. However, it must be conceded that sometimes the power of veto has been rightly used to check excesses and wrong, hasty decisions by arrogant western powers. It has saved the world, or a large section of it from awkward situations. But what would happen if the veto power is exercised by more than five, say 10 Council members? There would be a virtual mess in the international sphere.

An important suggestion for reforming the functioning of the UN is the creation of a permanent peace-keeping force. Since its establishment the UN has found it necessary to set up peace-keeping forces 13 times. It is one of the UN's most successful extra-Charter innovations.

But the key question is that of arranging finances for the UN activities. At present, this body is almost broke because many of its members are defaulters in respect of the payment of their annual subscriptions. An additional financial burden is implicit in constituting a peace-keeping fund.

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प्रतियोगिता संप्रदाय

प्रतियोगिता जगत का संपूर्ण मासिक

Indian Agriculture During the Eighties

Agricultural scene during the last decade has been both of cheer and disappointment. Now there is much talk about evolving a farm policy like the one for industries. An appraisal of what has been achieved or has not been achieved is timely. This feature presents a racy review of the farm sector's performance during the eighties.

I. Introduction

SINCE the advent of the Green Revolution in India in mid-sixties, the agricultural sector has taken many strides which have a bearing on the production of food and cash crops. All the same, agriculture remains a gamble in monsoons.

In seven out of the ten years ending 1990, the monsoon had been below par and consequently the agricultural production had recorded a limited growth during the decade of the eighties. The year 1991 also has been characterised by poor precipitation as well as distribution of south-west monsoon. The year 1987-88 experienced the worst drought of the century. Yet, the decline in foodgrain production in that year was less than that in 1979-80 drought. This establishes, beyond doubt, that agriculture had developed enough resilience to counteract the impact of weather aberrations. But the fluctuations in output from year to year have tended to de-stabilise the economy.

II. Growth Trends

THE annual average growth rate of production of certain selected crops shows a wide spectrum of divergence. Barring cotton, jute and mesta, the growth rates during the seventh five-year plan, 1985-90, have ruled lower than those in the sixth five year plan, 1980-85. Foodgrains recorded a growth rate of 3.6 (6.5) per cent per annum, rice 5.4 (7.8) per cent; wheat 2.8 (6.9) per cent; coarse cereals

2.6 (3.6) per cent; pulses 2.1 (7.4) per cent; oilseeds 7.1 (9.6) per cent; sugarcane 5.6 (6.4) per cent. (The percentages within the parentheses represent the growth rate averages posted during the sixth plan period).

The strategy of the Green Revolution has, undoubtedly, imparted a dynamism to the growth in foodgrains production and helped in transforming the food economy from a "global food basket to a national self-sufficiency". But it is limited to only a few crops such as rice and wheat and to regions with assured irrigation and access to adequate fertilisers. In other words, the rain-fed areas constituting nearly 70 per cent of the cultivable area and contributing about 40 per cent of foodgrain output still remain outside the ambit of the Green Revolution.

There is a growing disparity between the actual and the potential yield of both the food and the cash crops. To reach a higher growth path on a sustained basis, the thrust of agricultural production policy should be to increase land productivity, the prospect of area expansion being ruled out.

The low profile in farm production only reflects that priority has not been accorded to maximise the yield in the past. It has now been realized that the agricultural research should be oriented to remove this lacuna, if India is to build up its capability to produce 240 million ton (estimated) foodgrains by the turn of the century to meet the requirements of the burgeoning population. Higher productivity would require extension of area under the high-yield varieties seeds; increased production and supply of quality seeds; greater use of fertilisers and adequate irrigation facilities.

The distribution of certified seeds has increased nearly 240 per

cent during the last decade from 2.5 million quintals in 1980-81 to 6 million quintals in 1990-91. The production and distribution of seeds has gained momentum in recent years after a spell of stagnation around 5.5 to 5.7 million quintals for five years, 1985-86 to 1989-90, but it reflected in increased agricultural production. There has actually been a slow-down in the agricultural output. This is attributed to the declining productivity of seeds which is a serious lacuna in the strategy for development of the seed sector.

With an annual growth rate of 18.8 per cent in seed distribution during the sixth plan period, the foodgrain production grew at 6.3 per cent annually but the seed offtake plummeted to 3.4 per cent during the seventh plan and the foodgrain production (and also of other crops) diminished to a low of 3.6 per cent.

In so far as the coverage of HYV seeds is concerned, it is noticed that there is a wide variation between one crop and another. The wheat crop has 88 per cent area under these seed varieties while paddy covers only 65 per cent and coarse grains not even 50 per cent. The difference in coverage is an indication of the different consumption patterns. That is, while the fine grains—wheat and rice—are the most-preferred crops, the coarse grains belong to the less-preferred category.

With the growth in the areas under the HYV seeds, the provision of irrigation facilities cannot be over-emphasised in India where as much as 70 per cent of the 186 million cultivable area is rain-fed and vagaries of monsoon take a heavy toll on agricultural output. And yet, in none of the sectors has the failure of the planning process been so glaring and returns on investment so poor as in

irrigation. Time and cost over-runs are mounting. Some of the schemes conceived in the fifties have yet to see the light of the day. Losses from delays in implementation of irrigation works are increasing (at the rate of Rs 800 crore per annum at present) while productivity from land is sub-optimal. On the other side, there has been no let-up in creating irrigation potential at the rate of 2.5 million hectare annually during the seventh plan to reach the cumulative total of 80 million hectare by the terminal year of the plan. At this rate, the country will take about 13 more years to bring under irrigation 33 million hectare to attain the targeted irrigation potential of 113 million hectare. What is however notable is the mis-match between the irrigation potential and its utilisation. So that, the investment on irrigation projects which has been rising from plan to plan has not yielded commensurate returns.

India is the fourth largest producer and consumer of fertilisers, thanks to the new technology for cultivation. The overall fertiliser consumption has shown a growth rate of 8.7 per cent during the eighties, though the inter-State and inter-regional disparities continue.

India has always been a net importer of fertiliser as well as feedstock, notwithstanding the record production and capacity utilisation. The fertiliser imports in 1991-92 may cross Rs 6,000 crore as against Rs 4,500 crore budgeted for. But the share of imports to total fertiliser consumption has declined substantially from 50 per cent in 1980-81 to 21.5 per cent in 1990-91.

The government announced a policy change in the 1991-92 budget through the abolition of subsidy on fertilisers as a part of its strategy to slash down non-plan expenditure for lowering the fiscal deficit. This triggered off a big controversy. The policy withdrawing fertiliser subsidy was dubbed as an anti-farmer move.

With the passage of time, the new policy appears to have received a welcome at the hands of the farming community also. In a recent pre-budget meeting (January 23, 1992), the representatives of agriculturists have expressed the opinion that all

subsidies, whether for agriculture or industry should go. A majority of them favoured abolition of fertiliser subsidy. It was also suggested that the price of fertilisers be raised.

The fertiliser subsidy in 1991-92 may surge up to Rs 6400 crore—about 13 times the level of Rs 505 crore ten years ago. The snow-balling of subsidies has contributed a deal to the mounting fiscal deficits which the present government is irrevocably committed to slash down.

The review of the performance of the agricultural sector without a passing reference to the erratic production scenario of pulses, growing demand-supply imbalances and half-hearted institutional reforms will be incomplete.

As an essentially vegetarian nation, Indian citizens largely depend on pulses to derive protein in food. This depends on the availability and quantum of consumption of pulses. The trend in output of pulses over the last forty years does not show any consistent upswing but only a seesaw movement. The production hovered around 14 million ton in 1990-91 rising from about 10.6 million ton in 1980-81 and 8.4 million ton in 1950-51. It is noticed that the production could not be doubled during the last four decades. The area under pulses of all types had increased by 22 per cent and the yield 25 per cent during this duration. The Green Revolution has benefited most two staple foodgrain crops—wheat and rice—but relegated the pulses to marginal lands leading to a virtual stagnation in output. The sluggishness coupled with the burgeoning population resulted in a fall in per capita availability from 74.9 gramme in 1959 to a low of 36.5 gramme in 1990. The minimum per capita requirement of pulses is estimated at 47 gramme per diem. The obvious result is low intake of protein or under-nutrition.

The shortage of pulses has resulted in high prices and increasing reliance on imports. The Wholesale Price Index of pulses shot up to 255.4 in November 1991 from 94.2 in 1982-83, with 1981-82 as the base year. The soaring prices have kept pulses

beyond the reach of the bulk of population.

The growing shortages in edible oils which constitute staple constituents of an average menu are due to the low production of oilseeds. The various measures taken to boost production on a sustained basis have made little headway. With the current year's shortages, soaring prices and heavy imports the problem of edible oil economy is looked upon with concern.

Once an exporter of edible oils, India is now reduced to a net importer. However, because of the foreign exchange constraints, imports have come down in late eighties compared to mid-1980s. In 1991-92, imports are bound to rise if the projection about the diminution in oilseeds production comes true. As the Press reports go, the government has decided to import by end-March this year three lakh ton of edible oils although bumper crops of rapeseed and mustard are expected.

The major problem relative to edible oils is obsolete and wasteful method of oil extraction.

One of the most serious lacuna in agriculture relates to land reforms involving re-distribution of surplus land among the small and marginal farmers who constitute the bulk of the farming community. The Congress initiated the entire gamut of land reforms way back towards the end of 1940s and early 1950s. That is soon after the attainment of Independence but the task is still unfinished, thanks to the vested interests. Even a limited re-distribution of land would go a long way in generating additional employment opportunities in the rural areas and giving a fillip to production.

Prof A M. Khusro is of the view that all hackneyed thinking on agriculture must stop. The approach of imposition of ceilings on holdings which received great emphasis in land reforms should be abandoned. Instead, there should be tenurial reform in which the actual producers from land be identified and provided the requisite inputs to step up production.

India-Pakistan Tensions

Despite the frequent gestures and assurances of friendship and cordiality by Islamabad the tensions between India and Pakistan have been mounting. The discussions and meetings at various levels held in New Delhi and Islamabad, and also at key border posts, generally result in understandings on minor matters but the crucial issues remain unresolved. India's persistent efforts to ensure peace and amity between the two neighbours have proved futile.

Pakistan spokesmen seem to respond to India's gestures with reassuring words and statements, but these assurances have always turned out to be deceptive. Within hours of signing statements and making oral promises, Pakistan resorts to hostile activity in various shapes and forms. A stage has been reached when such assurances have become meaningless and hypocritical. In fact, many people have begun to wonder whether the peace moves will bear any fruit at all and whether an armed conflict alone would resolve the tangle. But a war, which neither side favours, would be disastrous for both countries.

The latest high level meeting between the Prime Ministers of the two countries was held at Davos (Switzerland) on February 2. Both Prime Ministers reiterated their desire to reduce tensions and continue the bilateral dialogue aimed at resolving the outstanding differences through peaceful means.

New Delhi rightly attributes the strained relations between the two countries to Islamabad's officially sponsored abetment of terrorism and secessionism in the sensitive Indian border States of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. The two leaders first met at Harare, during the Commonwealth summit, in October, 1991. Since then Pakistan has continued its interference in India's internal affairs. The interference is so obvious that Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has accused Pakistan of

blatantly sponsoring terrorism in Punjab and J & K.

Thus things have been getting worse instead of getting better. The Pakistan leaders have gone to the extent of expressing full support to the secessionist movements launched by some militant groups in Kashmir Valley.

The differences over the Siachen glacier region in the north and the Sir Creek in Western India have lessened and have lately ceased to cause tensions.

I. The Background

THE State of Jammu and Kashmir, situated in the extreme north of the country occupies a strategic position. It is bounded on the north by China, on the east by Tibet and on the south by Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Pakistan. Article 370 of the Constitution of India confers a special status on Jammu and Kashmir. Indian leaders describe this Article as "a bridge" between the State and the rest of the country. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and certain other organisations have been demanding abrogation of this Article but the Kashmir leaders, including former Prime Ministers, have warned that any attempt to abrogate this Article would have serious consequences.

Among the ~~main~~ aims of granting a special status to the State were (a) to assure the Kashmiris that their distinct identity would thus be preserved, and (b) to placate the Muslims of the Valley who were feeling uncertain over their future, especially because most of the areas where their community is in a majority had gone over to Pakistan.

Many legal experts hold the view that Article 370 is the umbilical cord that links J & K to India and has been dynamically brought into play time and again through Constitutional amendments extending various provisions of the Indian Constitution

to J & K with the consent of the State Assembly. The Article, it needs to be recalled, broadly follows the identical procedure employed in similarly extending Indian Constitutional provisions to all the other princely States existing before India became independent.

The Article essentially governs Centre-State relations, and issues of regional balance within States are similarly dealt with in the case of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra, Assam, Sikkim, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh (in Article 371 and 371A and Schedules 5 and 6). Kashmir, in this sense, is not uniquely treated.

The irony is that although the Government of India has been very generous to Kashmir in regard to Plan allocations for development to various areas, the anti-Indian feelings persist among the Kashmiris.

II. Conflicting Contentions

THE respective standpoints of India and Pakistan on Kashmir reflect a conflicting and contradictory approach. India argues that both legally and constitutionally Jammu and Kashmir is a part of India since the State acceded to the Union of India of its own free will. The Instrument of Accession was duly signed by the late Maharaja of Kashmir. Since J & K is an integral part of India, there is no dispute as such over Kashmir. But Pakistan insists that Kashmir is a disputed territory and is not an integral part of India.

India points out that since several elections have been held in the State since it became a part of India, there is no point in holding a plebiscite. The people of Kashmir have already indicated their wishes and preference through the elections.

As for the U.N. resolutions of 1948, the Government of India rightly contends that the preconditions for

holding a plebiscite must be fulfilled before such an exercise can be held. The first and foremost condition is that all Pakistani military forces must be withdrawn from Kashmir Valley, notably the occupied territory known as "Azad Kashmir", which is actually Indian territory at present under the illegal occupation of Pakistan.

Moreover, the plebiscite issue is dead; Pakistan is flogging a dead horse. Four decades have passed since the UN resolution on the subject was passed. The conditions in Kashmir have changed radically since that time. But Pakistan insists that through a plebiscite alone can the issue be settled. Pakistani leaders pose the question: "Why should the people of Kashmir be denied the right of self-determination when in every other region of the world the people are exercising this right and India herself, the Pakistani spokesmen contend, supports this right in every continent, in Africa, for example.

India's Stand: The basic aims of promoting peace all round and of

building bridges, especially with neighbouring countries, have been pursued by the Government of India consistently. The requisite adjustments have been made as and when deemed necessary. The net result for India is a streamlined policy of which timely diplomatic initiatives rightly form an essential part. Of course the national interest has been the supreme consideration, as is the case in other cases. While this policy has proved fruitful elsewhere, it has not borne fruit in the case of Pakistan.

There have been setbacks in Indo-Pakistan relations. The periods of amity and sustained goodwill have been short and very infrequent. One such—and distinct—period was during the Prime Ministership of Ms Benazir Bhutto. After the initial fervour and pro-India sentiments expressed by Benazir Bhutto during the early months of her all-too-short Prime Ministership, strains developed between the two countries. These were due to the hostile postures of the fundamentalists and the highly disconcerting

developments in Kashmir Valley for which Pakistan was largely responsible. It deliberately promoted subversive and terrorist activities in the Valley.

India has throughout favoured the establishment of a strong, stable democratic Pakistan. To give a relatively recent instance, on August 8, 1990, New Delhi expressed surprise at the abrupt dismissal of Ms Benazir Bhutto from Prime Ministership but affirmed that it would continue to build a relationship of cooperation with Pakistan "despite severe provocations, including support for terrorism and subversion". In a statement in Parliament, the then Union Minister for External Affairs said developments in Pakistan were an internal affair of that country but experience showed that "shocks" of this nature anywhere put democracy under severe strain. "We sincerely hope that there will be no discontinuity or setback to the democratic process and that the people's will would prevail." He hoped that friendly ties between the two

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countries would contribute to peace and stability in the region

III. "Line of Control" Episode

THERE was a near crisis on February 11, 1992, and during the preceding week when there was a concentration of the army along the India Pakistan border. JKLF activists had planned to cross the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and enter Indian territory. Indian spokesmen repeatedly warned that if any such step was taken, there would be an armed conflict as India was determined not to permit any intrusion into Indian territory.

The Government of Pakistan also realised that if the JKLF activists led by Amanullah Khan crossed the Line of Actual Control, it would mean clear aggression and would be sternly dealt with by India. That would result in a bloody, armed conflict. Better sense prevailed and the Pakistani authorities took steps to stop the JKLF workers several kms from the Line of Actual Control, in Pakistan territory, in order to prevent a clash between the two countries.

For the preceding 30 months the border had remained more or less normal (the occasional outbursts and threats notwithstanding). The threat posed by the JKLF to cross the Line was happily averted, although the danger of isolated incidents remains. Tension has been defused. The Pakistan police opened fire on the militants trying to cross the border into India. At least 12 persons were killed and 50 injured in clashes between the Pakistan police and the marchers. Nobody actually crossed the Line of Control. New Delhi emphatically denied that a group of the JKLF activists had been successful in sneaking across the border.

According to reports from New Delhi, about 15,000 people had assembled on February 11-12 at Chakoti, the last Pakistani checkpoint near the Line of Control, but they were pushed back by the Pakistani security forces. Meanwhile the main caravan of the JKLF, led by its chief, Mr Amanullah Khan, had reached Chinari, a couple of kilometres from

the border, and were expected to make an attempt to cross the Line of Control. Mr Amanullah Khan told reporters in Chinari that he, along with other activists, were determined to "accomplish their goal at any cost." But their move was effectively foiled, and he conceded the point.

Hostile moves on the Line of Control would cause more tensions. The Pak-occupied Kashmir administration disclosed on February 29 this year that it is keeping a strict vigil on the activities of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front. The people of Kashmir and of Pakistan, it said, had rejected the JKLF for its anti-State activities.

Credit for averting a major conflict must be shared by the governments of both India and Pakistan and also by the political leaders of both sides who did not lose their cool and favoured the utmost caution. They bowed to the urgent need to defuse tensions and not to allow the militants to create a crisis. They rightly realised that a confrontation could have led to a very dangerous escalation which would have serious consequences. The Government of India had kept the international community, through the ambassadors of various countries accredited to Delhi, fully informed about the dangerous situation.

All the parties concerned exercised a restraining influence. The USA and Moscow clearly opposed any potentially dangerous manoeuvre. China also tendered the sound advice that "any problem left by history should be resolved through bilateral negotiations." Doubtless these countries realised that another armed conflict between India and Pakistan would be highly dangerous. No one can afford a wasteful and pointless conflict.

The JKLF leader, Mr Amanullah Khan then announced that another attempt to cross the Line of Actual Control would be made on March 30 but there was no doubt that the move would be checked well in time and prove fruitless.

The Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif, though by no means a dove, rightly realised the dangerous

potentialities of an explosive situation. Hundreds of Pakistani soldiers and others would have been killed in the consequential fighting. But then, Mr Sharif would have been overthrown if he had ordered his army to remain passive, he acted tactfully, though he offended the JKLF and its leaders.

There was a distinct sigh of relief at the outcome of the episode. Some quarters suspect that there was a trade-off between the shipment of military spare parts for planes and other US equipment and Mr Sharif's timely measures to prevent a border clash. It is true that the JKLF leaders based in Kashmir Valley have denounced Islamabad for betraying their cause but it is in the interest of Pakistan itself that the JKLF activists should be kept in leash. This organisation has since then been declared unlawful.

IV. Pak Actions Damage Ties

IN his opening address to both Houses of Parliament on February 24 this year, President R Venkataraman regretted that the Pakistan Government and the Pakistan National Assembly had chosen to associate themselves with the statements and actions that have vitiated the relationship with India. Pakistan's negative approach towards India and its support to terrorism in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir continue to be the main impediments to normalisation of relations.

He said "We have nevertheless continued with our efforts to carry the confidence-building process and bilateral dialogue forward." The danger inherent in violating the Simla Agreement and the basic norms of inter-State conduct had repeatedly been pointed out to Islamabad. The President of India expressed the hope that the Pakistan Government would join New Delhi in the efforts to establish tension free relations.

India's efforts and policies were geared to be a part of resurgent Asia as it is a part of our hope that the 21st century would be an Asian century.

India is aware that our destiny lies in Asia, more specially in South Asia. So the Government attached high priority to strengthening relations with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Internationalising Kashmir issue: Pakistan has, during the past few years—in fact right from the beginning of the dispute over Kashmir a few months after the 1947 partition—repeatedly tried to internationalise the issue. Speaking in Parliament on February 27, Union Home Minister S.B. Chavan again accused Pakistan of trying to internationalise the issue in violation of the Simla accord.

He also charged the Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif, of adopting hypocritical attitudes by holding talks with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in Davos (Switzerland) recently and calling for a "bandh" in the country on the Kashmir issue on the very next day. He said the Pakistan military regulars were being sent in civilian clothes to cross the border into India, obviously

with ulterior motives. However, he rejected the demand voiced by a BJP member for sending the Indian army to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir to destroy terrorist training camps there.

V. Fear of Indo-Pak War

FEARS of an Indo-Pakistan armed conflict have been expressed by several prominent people and certain organisations around the globe; they have earnestly counselled both countries to be careful about their moves and counter-moves in order to avoid such contingencies and promote peace

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director, Mr Robert Gates, has warned against the danger of a nuclear war between India and Pakistan. In his testimony before a Congressional committee in Washington in December, 1991, he said: "It is a small world, they used to say, and it is the truth. It is indeed a small world today. Events in places we used to consider remote insistently engage our attention."

In this connection, he referred to the possibility and the danger of a nuclear war between India and Pakistan, a civil war in Yugoslavia and the process of peace-making in Cambodia and West Asia.

The CIA Chief said the world's most significant military forces, aside from the Soviet Union, belonged to China, India and North Korea. The CIA expects the Chinese to continue modernising its missile forces. The short-range missiles purportedly with the conventional warheads, were being marketed abroad to earn hard currency. New Chinese missiles, including mobile ICBMs, would probably be fielded in 1992. This further increased the danger of an armed conflict in South Asia and in other sensitive regions.

Chemical Arms: Mr Robert Gates made a further allegation which has the potential of intensifying tensions between India and Pakistan. He told a House Foreign Affairs Committee on February 26 that both these countries continue their race to develop weapons of

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mass destruction. Not only do both countries have nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes, they have recently pursued chemical weapons as well. He added, "We have no reason to believe that either country maintains assembled nuclear bombs, much less that either has deployed them. But such weapons could be assembled quickly. And both countries have combat aircraft that could be modified to deliver them in a crisis. Both have however publicly agreed to certain confidence-building measures such as not attacking each other's nuclear facilities.

VI. The Nuclear Bomb Issue

IN the early years of the post-independence period, several unsolved questions generated tensions between India and Pakistan, but in recent years it is the nuclear bomb issue that has caused misunderstandings and intensified the suspicions about each other's intentions. The US Administration and several other countries are now convinced that Pakistan possesses nuclear capability and also some nuclear devices or weapons. In fact, Pakistan's advanced nuclear programme has been much in the news in recent months. There are various estimates of the precise number of nuclear weapons which Pakistan now possesses, but no one doubts that the country has some nuclear devices manufactured at its nuclear plants, especially the one at Kahuta, near Islamabad.

The general and well-founded belief is that Pakistan has acquired nuclear capability with the help of stolen European technology and continuous, extensive Chinese assistance. After operating a plant to enrich uranium since 1986, and with additional help from Beijing in war-head designs, Pakistan has produced the bomb which it can utilise. The obvious target in case the bomb is actually put to use would be India. The main Indian cities and towns in North India, not to mention other areas, would be well within the reach of Pakistani military attacks.

On January 13, 1992, Pakistan

turned down suggestions by the USA to roll back its weapon-oriented nuclear programme and declined to sign unilaterally the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). During his recent visit, Senator Pressler gave a clean chit to India and said this country did not possess nuclear weapons and was not making any preparations for manufacturing such weapons. As prominent Indian leaders have said, the very idea of Pakistan possessing an *Islamic bomb* is dangerous, not only for the Indian sub-continent but also for the whole world.

India and Pakistan first agreed to refrain from attacking each other's nuclear facilities during the then Pakistan President Gen Zia-ul-Haq's visit to New Delhi in 1985. A formal accord was signed by the then Prime Ministers of the two countries, Mr Ravi Gandhi and Ms Benazir Bhutto on December 31, 1988.

On January 1, 1992, Pakistan ended the uncertainty in regard to the three-year-old agreement with India on non-attack of each other's nuclear facilities and exchanged with New Delhi the list of nuclear installations to be governed by the accord. Pakistan had at first delayed ratification of the agreement by about eight months after India had ratified it in February, 1989. It then took over two years to come forward with the list of its nuclear installations and facilities.

US technical experts had expressed the view based on their authentic study that India had abandoned its nuclear programme while Pakistan was going ahead with it. That is the basis of the demand by the BJP and some other parties that India should go nuclear in order to fully safeguard its national security.

VII. Poll Plank in Britain

THE Kashmir issue and the happenings in the Valley, and of course the developing tensions between India and Pakistan, have been the focus of public attention not only in the sub-continent but also across the seas. It has even become an election plank in Britain. The ruling Conservative Party there on February 28 this year castigated the opposition Labour Party for making Kashmir an

election issue and promising "the earth" to the Kashmiri community for electoral gains.

According to reports, the Labour Party has lately been making pledges on sensitive issues such as Kashmir which are based upon electoral calculations rather than on an honest and realistic appraisal of the best way to achieve progress. Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who visited India recently, assured Britain's full cooperation in fighting terrorism in the Kashmir Valley and elsewhere. He is acutely aware of the tensions and dangers in Kashmir and is treating them with seriousness and integrity. Like countless other people, he has been urging a dialogue between the parties and seeking to promote confidence-building measures.

Mr Lennox-Boyd, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in Britain, admitted that the Kashmir issue is "perhaps the most significant and intractable problem with which he has had to deal". The situation in Kashmir is causing much concern to people in Britain. In fact, it is one of the most persistent sources of concern to the world. India and Pakistan have fought wars over it on three occasions. It has brought them on the brink of another. "We whole-heartedly condemn terrorism in the State", he declared.

In view of the volatility of the situation in Kashmir, Mr Lennox-Boyd said, it is important that the Government of Pakistan should seek to ensure that arms, money or other material aid is not provided from Pakistan territory to groups which pursue their objectives through violence. Such support from inside Kashmir to the men of violence in Kashmir will surely increase the resistance of the Indian Government to a dialogue. The British leaders feel the dispute can ultimately be resolved only through peaceful agreement between India and Pakistan.

VIII. "Third Option" Manoeuvre

A seemingly off-the-cuff remark by Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz

Sharif upholding the right of the Kashmiris to opt for independence in case of a plebiscite created a virtual storm in Islamabad early in February this year. The remark added a new dimension to the already complex Kashmir situation. An official spokesman of Pakistan declined to comment on the Prime Minister's statement to the BBC at Teheran. On return to Islamabad, on February 19, Mr Nawaz Sharif did not contradict the report but merely said that his country was committed to the right of self-determination for the people of Kashmir in accordance with the U.N. Security Council resolution. Mr Nawaz Sharif's airport statement was circulated only by the State-controlled Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) and was carried by all newspapers. The official Foreign Office spokesman said only the Prime Minister could offer a clarification on his remarks made to the BBC.

Interestingly, "The Muslim", the well-known Islamabad newspaper, wrote: "The British statute granting freedom to India provided for the creation of two—and only two—independent sovereign dominions. What on earth is Mr Nawaz Sharif driving at when he nonchalantly talks of "independence" in the context of the Kashmir dispute? If he meant what he told the BBC, he has done something which defies belief. He has put the Kashmir issue on its head."

The newspaper added. "To talk of anything more than an India-Pakistan choice for a plebiscite is to open the Pandora's box; no one has a mandate from the Pakistani nation to give an entirely new, and wholly uncalled for, twist to the Kashmir issue." The paper chastised the Prime Minister for making his announcement on foreign soil. It then warned of the "incalculably unsettling consequences of such ill-conceived actions".

IX. The Way Out

THE security environment as created by the Kashmir tangle certainly needs to be re-shaped. The proxy war in Kashmir in fact poses a grave danger to peace and cordiality all round. The political and

diplomatic measures taken by India so far have proved fruitless. Pakistan seems to care little for foreign criticism of its actions. The USA, Britain, France and other countries have all deplored the Islamabad's hostile tactics in the Valley.

What then is the way out of the baffling situation for which the militants in Kashmir Valley, along with their supporters in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, are wholly responsible? While the efforts to bring pressure on Pakistan to stop active support to terrorists in J & K and Punjab must continue, suggestions have been made by certain experts and observers of the scene, including some Indians, that in at least one respect an initiative can be taken by New Delhi. This relates to a sizable cuts in the military forces. Proposals could be made for reduction in the military power of both sides without endangering the security of either State. The need is for bilateral agreements. Some time ago Pakistan itself expressed willingness for reducing the military forces on both sides on an agreed basis. But there were differences on the details. The tank strength, the light and heavy pieces of artillery, armoured infantry, fighting vehicles, combat aircraft and armed helicopters could all be curtailed. For nuclear stability an international conference could be arranged. The agreement on non-attack of each other's nuclear facilities should be brought into force without further formalities and sanctions.

Both sides agree that a war would never solve any problem, it is not an acceptable option. And yet the two countries maintain fairly strong armies, obviously to serve the purpose of deterrence. Ironically, both India and Pakistan are currently facing a severe resources crunch but they regard the substantial expenditure on defence forces in Kashmir as unavoidable. They should make a virtue of necessity and reduce their force levels to reasonable and economical levels to promote the prospects of peace.

Clear confirmation of this assessment came on March 2 this year through observations made by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in the

course of an interview to a Bombay fortnightly, "Onlooker". He stated that Pakistan's support to terrorists and secessionist forces in Jammu and Kashmir "is a hindrance to improvement in relations between the two countries". He hoped that Pakistan would realise this fact and work towards creating the right climate for elimination of tensions.

A notable feature of the current situation is the firm attitude of the Nawaz Sharif Government for checking the hostile moves being planned by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, and also to some extent by the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir administration which declared on February 29 that it is keeping a strict vigil on the activities of the JKLF. He contended that the JKLF was trying to divert the attention of the people from the "struggle" of the Kashmiris but the people could no longer be "hoodwinked" by it. Criticising the remarks of the JKLF against Pakistan, the spokesman of the Azad Kashmir said the Front was now attempting to win the sympathies of the people and cover up its "subversive activities" by observing hunger-strikes.

Meanwhile the JKLF chief affirmed on March 1 that his group "would not budge from its plan to cross the Line of Control" and it is ready to face any eventuality. From the February 11 effort, which proved abortive, the date was changed to March 30, and if that schedule proved abortive, another date would probably be fixed for the purpose. He charged the Nawaz Sharif Government with having an "ill-conceived policy on Kashmir issue". Reunification of both parts of Kashmir would be "achieved sooner or later". According to him, Islamabad had failed to project the Kashmiris' cause befittingly.

Thus, by sheer coincidence, the aim of the Indian authorities, the Islamabad Government and the "Azad Kashmir" administration is the same for the moment—to check the JKLF leader's manoeuvre. But the cause of tensions remains and India has to be on her guard. The attitudes across the border may be hypocritical and their motives may be altogether different.

Argumentative Questions on Social and Economic Problems

SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT

Q. "Since scientific progress causes environmental degradation, the advancement of science should be halted or slowed down for the present." Do you accept this view? Give arguments For and Against it.

Ans. Prof M.G K. Menon, former Union Minister for Science and Technology and a well known scientist, expressed the view (while inaugurating an international seminar on Environmental History of South and South East Asia in New Delhi on February 18) that the root cause of most of the environmental problems could be traced to scientific and technological progress, increase in population and the corresponding increase in the utilisation of natural resources. The historical roots of environmental issues was the central theme of the conference which was organised by the National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies and the Global Environment and History Unit of the University of Cambridge, U.K. There is much to be said for the view expressed by Prof M.G K. Menon, though the other side of the picture also calls for an impartial assessment.

Arguments For the View

1. The existence of man depends upon the environment in which he lives. If the environment is polluted and unhealthy, life would be gravely endangered and in due course become extinct. It is no wonder that much stress is now being laid on the maintenance of the environment. In many countries, especially the advanced ones, there is a separate ministry or department of environment. This indicates that much importance is being given to this matter. India

also has a Ministry of Environment.

2. Science has given mankind several devices for the exploitation of natural resources and it is this exploitation that has led to destruction of natural wealth and has gradually eroded our precious assets. Some of these assets cannot be replaced.

3. No one can deny that it is industrial advancement that has caused much of the pollution in western countries. The USA is an outstanding example. The noise, the smoke, the rapid reduction in the quantum of oxygen and the increase in the harmful gases such as carbon dioxide. In countries where industry has not made much progress and the causes of pollution of the atmosphere are fewer, the span of human life is bound to be longer.

4. Environment refers to those natural things that surround us—the essentials to sustain human life, such as the earth's atmosphere, healthy air and drinkable water. Wild animals, forests and the rich natural diversity of the planet also help sustain life. All these natural resources are being gradually destroyed by scientific devices and by the establishment of industrial enterprises.

5. The ecological crisis has also been caused by the modern means of energy-consuming means of transport, such as motor-cars. Nature's precious balance is being gravely upset. We can help in restoring it by halting or slowing down the establishment of industrial enterprises. Some industrial progress has to be made but rapid advancement and the fantastic increase in petrol-run transport, oil-run machines and

the smoke, visible and non-visible, are endangering human survival. Measures must be taken to check the pollution as far as possible.

Arguments Against the View

1. It is through industry that mankind has made rapid progress. It would be folly to halt or slow down industrial progress. We would in effect be slowing down human development. Industrial progress in many cases helps to make human life easier and more comfortable. Should we end human progress simply because factories and other industrial establishments also produce smoke, ash and other waste material?

2. We should instead promote clean industries that is, industries which do not pollute the atmosphere and which do not endanger human life in any way. It is the "unclean industry" that should be discouraged, not industrial units in general.

3. Already, the Government of India and the governments in other countries give permission for only those industrial plants which do not pollute the atmosphere and which take anti-pollution measures in some form or other. Industries which pose hazards to human life, directly or indirectly, are being proceeded against. So the right course is being adopted and in due course the harmful effects of ill-planned industrial development would be effectively checked—unless there is a slackening of the efforts in that direction.

4. The Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Mr Kamal Nath, inaugurating a conference organised by the Centre for Science and Environment in Delhi

called for the establishment of a World Environment Court similar to the International Court of Justice at the Hague. A plea has been made for banning the manufacture of environmentally hazardous chemicals in every country. Thus the requisite awareness of the dangers ahead has already come about. The ASEAN group adopted on February 18 this year, the Singapore resolution on Environment and Development besides taking a common stand on the forthcoming U.N. Conference due to be held in Brazil in June.

RIGHT TO WORK NOT YET

Q. The Government of India has reportedly shelved the schemes for ensuring the Right to Work and Employment Guarantee schemes. Do you regard this decision as correct? Give reasons For and Against this action.

Ans. *Rights are conditions of social life without which man cannot be at his best or give of his best, they are needed for adequate development and expression of one's personality. They are opportunities the absence of which deprive man of something essential. No State can afford to ignore the right to work, though few States outside the former Soviet Union legally recognised this right.*

Arguments in Favour of Decision

1. The scheme for granting the right to work and guarantee employment to all physically fit people was drawn up in earnestness by the V.P. Singh regime in 1990 and endorsed with some modifications by Mr Chandra Shekhar when he was the Prime Minister. Suggestions to pursue this right were made by earlier regimes also. But each time the scheme was deferred because it was found impracticable. Both schemes have been put in cold storage again for a decade or so, until conditions are created for making the right to work a Fundamental Right. The conditions at present are far from being suitable for ensuring this right.

2. Besides the unsuitable conditions in general, there are the finan-

cial constraints. The country is already in the midst of a major financial crisis. The resources crunch is indeed formidable. A few years ago the cost of making the right to work legal and guaranteeing this right to employment to everyone was estimated at Rs 13,000 crore. Since the population has increased since then, the amount of money needed would be still more. This factor alone would rule out the grant of this "right".

3. Then there are the legal complications. There would be suits galore; everyone who is unable to secure a suitable job would probably like to file a suit in a court against the State for the latter's failure to provide him with a job. In fact, declaring the right to work as a fundamental right would lead to endless legal problems. There would be frequent resort by unemployed people to Article 32 of the Constitution. The backlog of unemployment was recently put at over 5,153 million person days (3,229 million in rural areas and 1924 million in urban areas). The population is continuously increasing; so the grant of this "right" is obviously impossible.

4. There would also be endless differences and claims about the salaries and grades granted to each person, man or woman. The claimants would be so many and the resources so limited that a good part of the Government's funds would have to be spent on preparing the legal cases to counter the claims. Moreover, unemployment is likely to increase with the passage of years as a result of automation and mechanisation of factory and farm operations. A good part of the available funds would have to be spent on paying compensation to people rendered jobless as a result of modernisation and upgradation of technology.

Arguments Against the Decision

1. The right to work is implicit in the right to life which is recognised as a fundamental right under the Constitution. In a rationally organised society man must live on the reward

of his labour. Society should provide him with facilities to perform his functions and earn his living in order to maintain his life. If the State fails to provide him with such facility and opportunity, it in effect deprives him of all the means that make possible the realisation and development of his personality.

2. A struggling and starving man or woman is admittedly a burden to society and a social handicap. Of what use are all the high-sounding assertions about a "welfare State" and ambitious social legislation if millions of people are jobless and have to starve?

3. Unemployment insurance, which has been, and is being, tried at several places has not been found as beneficial and as practicable as it was expected to be. This again involves a substantial outlay of money. The employers are disinclined to contribute to funds to meet such contingencies. The employees and others directly or indirectly concerned are not in a position to contribute to the fund which it would be necessary to create for this purpose.

4. Although at present the right to work is not included in the Fundamental Rights in the Constitution, it is provided for in the Directive Principles of State Policy. Under Article 39(a) of the Constitution the State is required to direct its policies towards ensuring that the citizens do get the right to adequate means of livelihood. Besides, Art. 41 indirectly provides the right to work when it lays down that the State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provisions for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in case of unemployment, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want. So the State is failing in its constitutional obligation when it does not ensure the right to work.

GOOD-BYE TO NON-ALIGNMENT

Q. India's new defence ties

with several countries indicates that this country's traditional policy of non-alignment is being discarded. Give arguments For and Against this view.

Ans. The policy of non-alignment which India pioneered, pursued and propagated for several years, notably under the guidance of Jawaharlal Nehru, implied that this country would keep away from power blocs and military alliances. It earnestly followed an independent policy. But in recent months, especially since the assumption of office by a Congress ministry under the leadership of Mr. Narasimha Rao, India's military isolationism has ended. Will the new policy bring us benefits even though it marks a deviation from past practices and commitments?

Arguments For the View

1. For many years the USA was regarded as a mighty western power, leader of the West's military alliance and a strong opponent of the Third World, especially of the non-aligned countries. But during the past year or so, India has come closer to Washington and has even established provisional military ties. Both have tried to promote defence cooperation, marking a notable change in perception and practice.

2. The first meeting of the Joint Indo-US Army Steering Council took place in the third week of January, 1992, as part of a new sustained military interaction between the Indian Army and the US Army. Similar interaction is expected to begin between the two Navies and the Air Forces of the two countries. Both India and the US have agreed to facilitate communication at sea. Joint naval exercises are also being considered. Such exercises are unlikely to materialise in the near future. But the very fact that this has been discussed shows the way the wind is blowing.

3. In recognition of the new realities, Britain has also expressed willingness to return to earlier levels of military interaction with India. This became evident during the

recent visit of the British Foreign Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, to New Delhi. Such military interaction was unthinkable a few years ago.

4. France and India are also considering military interaction between the two countries. This interaction may include joint naval manoeuvres. Several regional powers are showing similar interest. Australia had led the campaign against India's naval build-up in the 1980s. But it is now reported to be keen on initial naval cooperation. In November, 1991, Indian and Australian navies undertook a joint exercise, though on a limited scale. Some ASEAN members are also stated to be willing to establish military cooperation with India. Kuwait is reported to have expressed interest in Indian military equipment as well as cooperation in arranging military training.

5. The Indian Defence Minister has announced the opening up of Indian military establishments to wide-ranging external interaction; this is likely to bear fruit.

Arguments Against the View

1. The Government of India has repeatedly asserted that ours is still a non-aligned country. This country has not joined any military alliance. The mere establishment of friendly ties and the efforts to set up machinery for sale and purchase of military equipment or provide training facilities does not imply a break from the policy of non-alignment. Such arrangements existed even a decade ago.

2. Even closer military and other ties were established with the Soviet Union through the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, 1971. But the signing of that 20-year treaty was not regarded as a violation of the 1971 treaty. Then why are mere friendly approaches and oral assurances of cooperation in various arenas regarded as deviations from the non-alignment policy.

3. It must be kept in mind that the USA, France, Britain or any other

country is not interested in a specific and full-fledged military alliance of the type which became all too familiar in the Cold War years. The offers of cooperation by foreign countries, including the USA, Britain, France and Australia, are of a very limited nature and it would be wrong to exaggerate them or to misinterpret them.

4. In view of the recurring tensions on the India-Pakistan border and the possibility of clashes on the India-China border despite the recent gestures of friendship and the assurances, the Government of India is fully justified in promoting cordial ties with all naval and other powers with a view to gaining experience and safeguarding our country. In fact, the primary orientation of Indian armed forces is the defence of our borders—and rightly so.

5. This country, like others, must keep in mind its strategic interests and not stick slavishly to obsolete, outdated concepts, though the policy of non-alignment in principle and as readjusted to the post Cold-War situation has to be adhered to. This policy was not sacrificed when India undertook operations in Sri Lanka and the Maldives in the late 1980s. These operations did draw attention to this country's military capabilities. Even at that time India participated in several international peace-keeping operations under the UN flag in the context of the intense East-West ideological, political and military struggles. But India's international military profile through the peace-keeping operations was naturally restricted. The non-alignment policy opened only limited possibilities for the Indian armed forces for even professional interaction with other services in the world. Jawaharlal Nehru did not see the British and Commonwealth links as contradictions to the much acclaimed policy of non-alignment. The Indian Navy used to participate on a small scale in the joint exercises off Trincomalee along with British and Commonwealth forces until the mid-1960s.

ECONOMIC SCENE

Economy in 1992

Q. "The Indian economy could be the miracle story of the nineties" (IBRD). Do you share this prediction?

Ans. The International Bank of Re-construction and Development (IBRD) has predicted 1992 as another difficult year for the developing nations but has singled out India as one destined to be a miracle, thanks to the "bold" economic reforms which the present Congress government under the stewardship of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao initiated in July last. These reforms have already started yielding visible results but the next twelve months will, according to the Union Finance Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, be difficult.

Briefly, the economic reforms—sale of gold, loans against gold, devaluation of rupee, liberalisation of trade and industries, privatisation and an incredible loan from the International Fund—aim at a credible stabilisation programme and restructuring of the debt-ridden "fossilised" economy.

As a result, India has regained international confidence; foreign private investment prospects have brightened; globalisation of industries and competitiveness are very much in evidence. But that is far from being enough. Much more is needed if the benefits of the macro-economic adjustments are not to be frittered away.

The Finance Minister has reiterated the warning that the budget for 1992-93 will be tougher. The IMF gave India loans in 1991-92 worth millions of dollars and is disposed to consider favourably more long-term loans under the Extended Fund Facility scheme, subject to certain conditionalities. India has to reduce the fiscal deficit from 8.4 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1990-91 to 6.5 per cent of GDP in

1991-92 and further to 5 per cent of GDP in 1992-93 and to 4 per cent of GDP in the following year. This would call for a drastic reduction in the growth of the public expenditure and whopping increase in government revenues.

Tax revenues, it is felt, have limits and cannot be raised easily. More revenues have to come from higher growth, not through hike in administered prices and higher tax rates. It may be pointed out that for higher growth emphasis has to be on improving efficiency in terms of increased productivity, production and quality of products. This may need more capital investment, but more than that modern technology.

Professor R.J. Chelliah is of the view that the emphasis should not be merely on raising more resources but on adjustment of expenditure. The government has already decided to abolish 1000 posts above the ranks of joint secretary. (As the Press reports go, the Centre proposes to wind up the Food Processing Ministry "very soon" in pursuance of the Prime Minister's desire to prune the ministries to reduce expenditure of a non-development nature). While retrenchment of surplus staff may aggravate unemployment leading to social unrest, new recruitment may be stopped. This would virtually amount to zero employment generation—the very negation of the goals of economic development.

Prof Chelliah suggests reduction in government's past debts through buying up the public debt in the market with the money from the sale of equity and confiscated gold. The amount of debt that could be got rid of is estimated at Rs twenty thousand to Rs thirty thousand crore. Correspondingly, the interest burden would be reduced.

The government has decided on 20 per cent disinvestment of the

public sector undertakings in order to raise resources. It has, however, not spelt out the exit policy in respect of the sick units. In its absence, it is faced with the labour problems. As a first step, the government has set up a National Renewal Fund with a corpus of Rs 200 crore (likely to be increased, if necessary) to provide retrenchment benefits of re-training or re-deployment of workers of 50 chronically sick PSEs. The financing will be done till the end of the fiscal year 1992-93. The success of this measure of "privatisation" will depend on successful tackling of the problem of labour affected in the public as well as the private enterprises.

Reduction or abolition of subsidies on food, fertilisers, exports and withdrawal of "hidden" subsidies is also resorted to in a bid to cut the non-plan expenditure. Whatever the rationale, the exercise to cut subsidies has evoked widespread resentment and dissension, even among the Union ministers. Dr Singh had, perforce, to backtrack on subsidy cuts on fertilisers. Will he now make another attempt to slash down various subsidies to achieve a lower deficit in the next year's (1992-93/1993-94) budget as promised to the IMF? If this were not done as a part of the sweeping economic reforms, the country will face a dismal future. It may be recalled that deficit financing in 1991-92 has already hit a record level of Rs 14,700 crore in mid-January, 1992 which is far higher than the limit of Rs 8,700 crore agreed to with the IMF for March end, 1992. The resultant excessive money supply is fuelling inflation.

In a desperate bid to hit the targeted fiscal deficit for 1991-92 budget, the plan allocation for development for 1991-92 has been whittled down by a margin of Rs 500 crore. This might affect the major welfare projects such as Jawahar Roz-

gar Yojna, the rural drinking water programme and the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). This is the "unkindest cut": It cannot be excused to reach the goal of lower fiscal deficit. If the government's reforms package is to succeed, it must not cut the anti-poverty or minimum needs programme.

Equity participation, not debt; free-market economy, not a rigidly controlled and over-regulated economy; open door policy for direct foreign investment and competition, not oligopolistic market are the salient features of the economic reforms now under way. The economic policies of the past are on the way out and the new ones are in place. The old order changeth. More reforms are in the offing e.g. financial institutions. It is going to be a continuing process. The Prime Minister asserted at Davos (Switzerland) that the reforms will not only be continued but accelerated. There is no question of making a retreat from the new path delineated by the nation, he assured to the World Economic Forum where businessmen had assembled.

There has been little impact of the economic reforms on the people. Their effects will be felt after 2-3 years. With the first phase over, the reforms enter now phase II. The government has to fulfil the promises made to the IMF and the World Bank. Notably, it has to squeeze the fiscal deficit to 5 per cent of GDP in the 1992-93 budget and maintain, at the same time, a growth rate of four per cent. A formidable challenge!

Equally important is the pace of implementation of the reforms. A go-slow approach or any back-tracking on reforms will mean disaster for the economy according to Dr Singh. On the other hand, many politicians (including some Union ministers) and bureaucrats think that the people should not be steam-rolled with such radical changes. The industrial sector has already slipped into a recession; the exports are on the down-swing and the prices are sky-rocketing. The government has decided to trim the size of the bureaucracy.

The way out? The government

should maintain 4 per cent growth rate; control prices; step up employment and keep fiscal deficit and current account deficit very low. People must be prevailed to reconcile to the new economic order which is emerging, though gradually. It is a bitter pill but will have a curative effect on the ailing economy.

Industrial Prospects Bleak?

Q. The Indian industries are in the throes of a recession. Trace its causes and suggest corrective measures.

Ans. The industrial sector has entered the recessionary phase, going by the production trends during the eight months, April-November, 1991, in the manufacturing industries, notably automobiles, consumer durables, mill-made cloth, soda ash, petroleum oil/products and vanaspati. The slow-growth trends are likely to affect other units also, if left unchecked. It may be added that a recession is generally defined as a decline in production for two successive quarters.

Causes: The current recessionary trends are a post-economic reforms phenomenon and so not quite unexpected. The Reserve Bank of India has predicted a 3-4 per cent growth rate for the fiscal year 1991-92 and a lower growth rate in the following year. The impending recession is thus policy-induced and not a cyclical change.

The genesis of economic crisis (1991) can be traced back to the mid-1980s. During the seventh five year plan, 1985-90, the expansionary fiscal and monetary policy led to an acceleration in demand for consumer durables and also for producers' goods. The public spending on plans and non-plan items (e.g. interest on past debts, defence, subsidies etc.) beyond the revenue resources led to fiscal deficits. The expenditure-income gap continued widening every year. To plug the gap, the government had to incur debts.

The merchandise trade gap together with the decline in net receipts from invisibles aggravated the negative growth of foreign trade which meant more external debt. The

debt-service ratio went up and India has been down-graded in credit rating last year. The country lost international confidence and credibility as a borrower. No country or lending agency would stake advancing loans to India. That was the state of economy on the eve of the package of reforms.

In these circumstances, recourse to an IMF loan was inevitable. India has to pay for it a heavy price to abide by the conditionalities imposed by the Fund, namely implementing the re-structuring package consisting of rupee devaluation, reduction in fiscal deficit; tight money policy and liberalisation of trade and industrial policies.

In the short run, rupee devaluation combined with import curbs (imposed by the RBI) have made imports costlier and short in supply; import-intensive goods are in short supply; hike in interest rate, high statutory liquidity ratio and cash reserve ratio have squeezed credit and money supply. All these measures have generated cost-push inflationary pressures and reduced production. Simultaneously, the demand contraction has occurred. Decline in production amidst inflation is termed stagflation.

Exports have not spurted, notwithstanding devaluation, and trade liberalisation. In fact, they have declined. The benefits from devaluation in terms of higher exports are not in sight, thanks to faster inflation/stagflation.

How to get out of the impasse? The answer is: improve productivity by investment in infra-structure and modern technology. Trade openness can help overcome the balance of trade crisis. The policies of restrictive credit and squeeze on money supply need to be replaced by expansionary fiscal and monetary policies. Unless this is done, the recession in growth will stay with us for 2-3 years. In the long run, however, growth in agriculture can help regain industrial recovery. Agriculture has the potential to earn foreign exchange through creating exportable surplus and reducing imports of food, edible oils, sugar etc.

DESCRIPTIVE QUESTIONS

The following are answers to the questions set in the Descriptive Paper set for the B.S.R.B. Lucknow (Probationary Officers) examination held recently.

We thank Mr Inder Pal Singh of New Delhi for sending us a copy of the question paper.

Defence Expenditure

Q. 1. Expenditure on defence should be reduced to give impetus to development activities in other areas.

Give two arguments each in favour and against the view expressed in the statement.

Ans. The defence of a country is admittedly of the utmost importance and the highest priority is given to it. It is obvious that unless the safety and security of the country are adequately provided, neither normal life nor economic prosperity can be ensured through development.

Arguments For the View

1. In recent years, India's defence expenditure has been mounting. The annual provision under this head in the 1991-92 budget was put at Rs 16,350 crore as against Rs 15,750 crore in the preceding year. This did not take into account the Rs 255 crore spent on the ministry itself nor the rising pension bill, pegged at Rs 1750 crore for the year. The amount does not appear large when compared with the corresponding figures of prosperous Western countries, but India is a poor country and cannot afford a defence outlay of this order. When millions of people either have to starve or live on one meal a day, an amount of Rs 16,350 crore for defence is almost a luxury. Several development departments and programmes are starved of funds while there is waste and corruption in the Defence wing.

2. Since the entire defence expenditure is treated as a sacred cow

and a matter of the highest priority, few questions are asked in Parliament about the details. We should also keep in mind that no neighbouring country is likely to pose a serious threat to the safety and integrity of this large country. India-China relations have now become friendly, and Pakistan, regarded by many as a hostile neighbour, does not have sufficient military strength to be able to win a war against India. Islamabad has learnt bitter lessons from the previous wars it fought against this country, especially those fought in 1965 and 1971.

Arguments Against the View

1. Defence of the country is a matter of the highest priority and no patriotic person can afford to play with it. Of what use are the investments in various development projects if the country remains highly vulnerable and militarily weak and can be overrun by an aggressor at any time. To draw a parallel, of what use are apparel, buildings, educational, health and other facilities if life itself becomes extinct? All the expenditure that is incurred or proposed to be incurred on social and economic development would be sheer waste if the country remains weak.

2. The defence budget is not large in reality. We must take into account the high degree of inflation which sharply erodes the value of money and as a result of which the actual funds available for military purposes is much smaller. There is also the fact that a good part of the budget is accounted for by salaries, allowances and pensions. The money available for modern weapons and military equipment is in fact limited. Moreover, obsolete weapons have necessarily to be replaced to keep them in working order whenever these are needed for national defence. The armed forces have to be constantly trained and familiarised with

modern military hardware. We must not be declared guilty of betraying the country by future generation if the country is enslaved by foreigners. There is virtually no limit to an aggressor's ambitions for territorial expansion. India has to guard against all such eventualities. So there should not be any cuts in defence outlay. Impetus should be given to development in other areas by other means.

Mortal Man

Q. 2. What would happen if man becomes immortal?

Give at least three possible consequences if such a situation comes about?

Ans. Almighty God has ordained a relatively short span of life for man. Some people do wish to live a long life and even to become immortal, that is, they wish to live for ever. In fact, *sadhus* and saints strive for immortality and use every possible means in a vain bid to attain this end. Saintry people are exceptions; they have no cares and worries or similar other problems in life. There would be several interesting consequences if man becomes immortal.

One. At present, life is generally considered short. Childhood, youth and adolescence are followed by old age and senility. Man knows that he is destined to die sooner or later. He has several years of full activity, then lives through a period of virtual retirement. But all this will change when man lives on and on, without any sign of an end to one's existence. Presumably, old age will persist, which would hardly be conducive to health and happiness. The various stages of life will continue for ever and, in all probability, life itself will become dull and full of sheer boredom.

The enjoyment part will go out; instead there would be fatigue, gloom and, possibly, a desire to ter-

minate existence after some decades. This would be especially so when illness comes and a person remains in indifferent health year after year. Of what use is existence when one is constantly ailing? Life would become a great burden, especially when the person and his family are poor and have no or inadequate means of subsistence. Saint Bernard, in a mood of despondency said: "It is a misery to be born and a pain to live, a trouble to die." It all depends on the circumstances.

Two. This world will have millions and millions of people, for everyone will remain alive and will never die. If there are numerous births and no deaths, before long there would not be enough space for all the people. How will the world go on if no one dies? There would not be enough food, shelter and land for all the people, young and old. There might be no retirement from service or business. Nor would there be work enough for everyone. After all, there is a limit to everything. There should be endless resources when life becomes endless.

Three. The criminals, the dacoits and the latest menace—the terrorists—will go on ceaselessly with their nefarious activity for ever and ever—altogether a dismal, heart-breaking scenario. The only persons who would be happy and useful to humanity at large would be those who regard life as a mission, a period of service to fellow men. Those who deem it their duty to make others happy would have endless time to spread joy and happiness. If this category of people are in a majority, the world would be a happy place to live in.

The Democratic Pattern

Q. 3. More and more countries are accepting the democratic pattern of Government.

Give at least three reasons for the occurrence of this phenomenon.

Ans. Democracy means power of the people; a democratic structure is one in which the people are supreme and where there is equality as far as it is possible. Dicey defined

democracy as that form of government in which the governing body is a comparatively large fraction of the entire nation. Thus, in a democratic form the ruling power of the State is largely vested in the members of the community as a whole.

The following are among the reasons for occurrence of the phenomenon:

One. Since the people, through their representatives, enjoy all the power, they prefer this pattern of governmental structure to every other system. Where there is autocracy and authoritarianism, there are bound to be arbitrary decisions which often imply injustice and inequality.

Two. A democracy allows every qualified citizen to express an opinion on affairs of the State. Of course each and every citizen cannot—and in fact should not—have a say in the administration. For instance, lunatics, criminals and children do not have the same rights as adults. So, whenever we speak of the will of the people we actually mean the will of the majority and it is the will of the majority that matters. Since that is so, the people prefer the democratic structure of government, not an aristocracy, oligarchy or a monarchy.

Three. A truly democratic society is a society of free, equal, active and intelligent citizens, each man or woman choosing his or her own way of life and letting others to choose theirs. Tolerance and goodwill become the norms. Ideally, the brotherhood of man is the basis of democratic society. A democratic society is supposed to be free of inequalities and injustices. There are opportunities for all the people. Of course talent and merit count; everyone cannot have the same type of job and the same level of emoluments. But the opportunity is there for all. Social, economic and political justice is constantly sought and generally ensured.

Employment Generation

Q. 4. Various Government schemes for employment generation in rural areas are not bearing fruit. Explain the reasons for this

situation.

Ans. It is indeed ironical that, despite the large amounts of money allocated for the series of schemes designed to generate employment in rural areas where millions of people remain jobless or are only partially employed, the ambitious schemes have borne little fruit. There are several reasons for this dismal sequel.

One. The various employment schemes are drawn up at the top without adequate consultations with the people in the villages who are directly concerned. The bureaucrats do not adequately understand the rural folks' attitudes and problems. Schemes prepared in New Delhi by officials suffer from this initial handicap, whatever the amount sanctioned for them. Some examples are the Rural Youth Training for Self-employment, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, National Rural Employment Programme.

Two. There is corruption at every level. A few years ago, the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi himself conceded that less than 14 paise in the rupee are actually spent for the benefit of the people; the rest of the sanctioned grant or allocation just "disappears". There are so many greedy, selfish intermediaries that the schemes and projects, even the most ambitious and well-thought-out ones, make little impact on the overall situation. There is considerable exploitation by landowners. The unemployed villagers watch the phenomenon helplessly. Unemployment is the bane of rural and also, to a smaller extent, urban India.

Three. To cap it all, there is the highly deplorable and the apparently endless inefficiency. Most of the functionaries who are entrusted with the implementation of the Government schemes are grossly inefficient, and they are indifferent too. To make matters worse, there are frauds, including "cooking" of data and of the so-called "achievements". These inflated figures are wholly misleading and highly deceptive. When the very basis and the overall assessment are wrong, how can the results be satisfactory and fruitful? Besides, many of the schemes are over-ambitious and not practicable.

Notes on Current Affairs

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

♦ TAX CONCESSIONS IN 1992-93 BUDGET ♦ RAIL BUDGET: SHARP HIKE IN FARES ♦ STATE OF ECONOMY ♦ LOW VOTING IN PUNJAB POLL ♦ SOUTH KOREA BACKS INDIA ♦ REFORMS IN MORE AREAS ♦ STRESS ON CHECKING TERRORISM ♦ NEW POLLUTION CONTROL POLICY ♦ INDIA TO SIGN MONTREAL TREATY ♦ INDIA, UK PACT ON TERRORISM ♦ N-PLANTS IN INDIA SAFER THAN CHERNOBYL ♦ INDIA-CHINA TALKS ON BOUNDARY ISSUE ♦ INDIA, RUSSIA SIGN PROTOCOL ♦ ARMED CONFLICT ON EASTERN BORDER? ♦

Tax Concessions in 1992-93 Budget

WIDESPREAD reliefs in income tax, including the raising of the exemption limit from Rs 22,000 to Rs 28,000, cuts in tax slabs with a maximum of 40%, a Rs 1400-a-year presumptive tax on traders, withdrawal of tax deduction at source on bank deposits, 7% increase in defence expenditure are among the main features of the 1992-93 budget. Total receipts, Rs 113,698 crore; Non-plan expenditure—Rs 84,475 crore; plan expenditure—Rs 34,612 crore; Total expenditure—Rs 119,087 crore.

At a Glance: Personal income-tax exemption limit raised from Rs 22,000 to Rs 28,000. Three slabs of income tax proposed. Entry point at 20 per cent applicable to incomes of Rs 50,000. Thirty per cent for incomes of Rs 1 lakh, and 40 per cent for incomes of above Rs 1 lakh. Government to retain surcharge of 12 per cent for one more year, payable by those whose income exceeds Rs 1 lakh. Exemption from income tax for mutual funds of both public and private sector firms recognised by the securities and Exchange Board. Essential items like tea, coffee, sugar, matches and kerosene and vanaspati fully exempted from special excise duty which is being levied at present at the rate of 10 per cent of the basic excise. Excise duty on cement increased from Rs 215 to Rs 290 per tonne. Excise duty on cement produced in mini plants increased from Rs 90 to Rs 160 per tonne. Excise

duty on cigarettes and light commercial vehicles up

Excise duty on all cigarettes except non-filter cigarettes of less than 60 mm in length raised by Rs 30 to Rs 100 per thousand depending on the length. Wealth tax limit hiked to Rs 15 lakh.

Presumptive tax of Rs 1,400 to be introduced to cover new taxpayers like shopkeepers and retailers whose annual turnover is below Rs 5 lakh. For playwrights, actors, musicians, sportsmen and authors tax rebate increased from 20 per cent to 25 per cent. Tax incentives to working women. Tax rebate of 10 per cent on net tax liability for those above 65 years of age and whose annual income does not exceed Rs 50,000. Duty on watches increased from 5 per cent to 10 per cent. Tax deduction at source on term deposits in banks to be withdrawn.

Import of glazed newsprint, which attracts a duty of Rs 550 per tonne, now fully exempted from duty.

15 per cent *ad valorem* import duty on gold upto 5 kg payable in convertible foreign currency. It amounts to Rs 450 per 10 gm of gold. Excise duty on two wheelers and motor-cycles to be rationalised. Two wheelers with engine capacity of 75 cc to attract 15 per cent, above 75 cc to attract 25 per cent excise duty.

Excise duty on paints increased from existing levels of 15 per cent and 30 per cent to 20 per cent and 35 per cent respectively. All cooperative

societies, including urban development banks, to be exempted from the purview of expenditure tax. The levy imposed on air-conditioned restaurants last year to be withdrawn. To help film industry, import duty on unexposed colour films reduced by 20 per cent.

Overall budget deficit is estimated at Rs 5,389 crore for the year 1992-93 and fiscal deficit at Rs 34,408 crore. Drastic cut in duty on capital goods for energy sector. Import duty on specified pesticides and intermediates down, full exemption to seeds for vegetables, pulses, oilseeds, flowers, etc. Duty on moped tyres reduced from Rs 30 to Rs 25 per tyre. Existing specific rates of duty on tyres, tubes and flaps to be revised upwards.

Defence Outlay: The defence outlay for 1992-93 at Rs 17,500 crore marks an increase of Rs 1,150 crore over the estimates of 1991-92. Taking into account the 12 per cent rate of inflation and the effect of devaluation of the rupee, in real terms the next financial year's budget shows a decline.

The Army has been allocated Rs 8,937.23 crore which is an increase of Rs 438.16 crore over the revised estimates for 1991-92. The Air Force with a budget allocation of Rs 2,526.50 crore for 1992-93 shows an increase of Rs 117.50 crore over the revised estimates for 1991-92. The Navy's allocation of Rs. 1,020.05 crore shows a marginal increase of Rs 54.21 crore over the revised estimates.

The capital outlay on defence services at Rs 5,340.89 crore shows an increase of Rs 463.49 crore over the revised estimates of Rs 4,877.40 crore for 1991-92.

The defence pensions with an allocation of Rs 2,119.67 crore which shows an increase of Rs 280 crore over the revised estimates of Rs 1,839.67 crore for 1991-92 covers the pension for retired personnel, their

gratuity and gallantry awards.

The Ministry of Defence has been allocated Rs 1,616.52 crore, which is an increase of Rs 207.61 crore over the revised estimates.

Rail Budget: Sharp Hike in Fares

A large amount of Rs 1,366 crore of additional revenue was proposed to be raised in the Railway Budget for 1992-93 through widespread but moderate increases in freight and fare rates. First class and AC fares will cost 20 per cent more and the freight rates for all commodities, barring 15 essential items, will go up by 7.5 per cent. Second class travel will also cost more, but the increase will be a maximum of Rs 5 for ordinary trains and Rs 25 for express and mail trains.

Presenting the Rs 563.54-crore surplus budget in the Lok Sabha, the Railway Minister, Mr C.K. Jaffer Sharief, proposed exemption for 15 essential items from the freight hike and a lower four per cent increase in the freight rate for coal to contain inflationary pressure on the economy.

The brunt of the passenger fare hike would be borne by the upper class travellers with the fares for AC first class, AC sleeper, first class and AC chair car going up by 20 per cent for all distances. Fares for Rajdhani Express, New Delhi-Bombay AC Express and Shatabdi Express trains are also to be increased suitably.

The increase in freight rates, in effect would be more than 7.5 per cent as the Railway Minister has also proposed rationalisation in the classification structure of different commodities by raising the trainload, wagonload and "smalls" classification by one step.

The following are notable features of the budget: Freight rates of all items, except 15 essential commodities, up by 7.5 per cent and for coal by 4 per cent; Minimum charge for fresh fruit and vegetables Rs 20 and for parcels and luggage up from Rs 17 to 30. Minimum fare for AC, 1st class, AC sleeper, First Class AC chair car up by 20 per cent for all distances; Fares for Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Delhi-Bombay AC express trains to be suitably increased; 11nd Class Mail, Express fares up by Re one at the

lowest distance slab, going upto Rs 25 per ticket for distances beyond 1,300 km, 11nd class ordinary fares up by 50 paise per ticket in the lowest slab, going upto Rs 5 per ticket for beyond 250 km travel 11nd class sleeper surcharge for 501 km to 1,000 km up from Rs 20 to Rs 25; Freight rates of essential commodities like foodgrains, pulses, salt, sugar, tea, fruit and vegetables, edible oils, kerosene, diesel, oilseeds, livestock and fodder.

State of Economy

THE annual economic survey for 1991-92, presented to Parliament on February 27, asserts that although the twin problems of balance of payments and inflation have not been overcome, they are more "manageable" now. A considerably better economic performance is also within reach, provided policy directions of the recent months are continued.

The survey acknowledges that the economic policies of the Government to tackle the immediate crisis have caused hardship to the people. "But the immediate options are limited", it points out, while assuring that this does not mean giving up the vision of self-reliance.

"Even if anyone wished to abandon self-reliance, India is too large a country for the rest of the world to look after. There is thus no alternative to self-reliance", the survey says.

For the fiscal year 1991-92, the survey estimates a modest growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of only 2.5 per cent, and admits that an industrial recession has set in, slowing down industrial investment.

Since foreign direct investment would play only a minor role in comparison to domestic investment, "the balance of payments problem would have to be resolved with our own resources and ingenuity". This, according to the survey, illustrates the general proposition that there is no alternative to self-reliance.

As for inflation, a policy of demand restraint was unavoidable to control inflation in the short run. But a more effective and durable way of stabilising prices in the long run would be to improve the supply response to price changes.

Highlights: Modest growth in GDP of about 2.5 per cent; Inflation rate down to 11.8 per cent; Foreign exchange reserves touch \$ 4.4 billion; good performance by infrastructure; agricultural growth static, at best negligible; negative growth in industrial production; highest priority to balance of payments and containing inflation; Calls for reduction of subsidies and elimination of open-ended cross-subsidisation; reduction of external support to production enterprises to make them responsive to price and demand changes; four-point adjustment strategy to boost exports savings on the one hand, and the development of improved organisational structures in agriculture and industry on the other.

The current inflation has highlighted the crucial role of agriculture output; it has led not only to general inflation but also to a relatively faster rise in agricultural than in industrial prices.

Worst year for Industry: The 1991-92 financial year has proved to be the worst year on record in over a decade for Indian industry. Reeling under the multiple shocks of devaluation, import squeeze, spiralling cost of money, rising costs of imports and severe demand compression caused by inflation and a cutback in government expenditure. Industrial production has declined, for the first time since 1980-81.

The industrial sector is likely to face recessionary pressures for some more time to come. "Constraining factors like import compression, tight money policy, fiscal retrenchment and inflationary pressure are still in operation, and some of them, particularly the strict monetary and fiscal discipline, which are basic elements of the macro economic adjustment programme initiated by the Government, are still in operation.

Low Voting in Punjab Poll

THE Central Government fulfilled its commitment to hold elections in Punjab on February 19, whatever the odds. The voting was very low—21.75 per cent of the electorate. It was the lowest ever because of the boycott of the Akalis. The polling was held

under the tightest security.

The Congress has been swept into power with a record three-fourths of the total number of seats in the State legislature. It won 87 seats in the 117-member Assembly.

Besides the unprecedented success in the Assembly elections, the Congress made a near-clean sweep in the Lok Sabha poll by winning 12 of the 13 seats. The only seat it lost was Ferozepore where its nominee lost to the Bahujan Samaj nominee by 1,300 votes.

Never before has any party in the State won three-fourths of the total seats. The best performance by any party in the past was by the Shiromani Akali Dal in the last Assembly elections when it won 73 seats in a House of 117. The Congress improved the record by claiming 87 seats out of the 116 it contested. It formed the Government for the sixth time since 1952. In 1952 the Congress won 122 seats, 120 in 1957, 90 in 1962, 48 in 1967, 38 in 1969, 66 in 1972, 17 in 1977, 63 in 1980 and 32 in 1985.

After a gap of 57 months, the Congress formed a popular government in the State on Feb 25. The election projected the Bahujan Samaj Party as the second largest party in the State, though it won only nine seats. Besides, it won one Lok Sabha seat (Ferozepore).

The Akali Dal (K), the sole Akali Dal participant, fared badly. It could win only three seats, including the unopposed election of its chairman of its Parliamentary Board, Capt Amarinder Singh, from Samana.

The poll boycott call given by the militants and backed by the major Akali factions proved effective.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, also suffered a setback. It could win only six seats. Its major gain had been the Anandpur Sahib Assembly seat which it won by defeating the Congress nominee.

Final party position: Total seats 117; Congress 87, BSP 9, BJP 6, CPI 4, Akali Dal (K) 3, CPM 1, Janata Dal 1, UCPI 1, Independents and others 5.

Rajya Sabha Seats: The unprecedented victory of the Congress in the Punjab elections has also put it in a position to capture all the seven Rajya Sabha seats from the State between now and July. Five vacancies

caused by the retirement of Rajya Sabha members from Punjab in 1988 and 1990 could not be filled because the electoral college consisting of the State Assembly did not exist. Two Rajya Sabha members from Punjab are due to retire in July next. Elections to the Rajya Sabha from Punjab will be held in three stages. The State Assembly will be called upon to fill two vacancies caused in 1988. The Assembly will then elect three members to fill the vacancies caused in 1990. In July elections to the Rajya Sabha will again be held to fill the vacancies to be caused that month.

The ruling party's three-fourths majority in the State Assembly will enable it to get all its candidates elected to the Rajya Sabha from the State. This will be a heart-warming development for the ruling party. Since the party has fared badly in UP, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, its strength in the Rajya Sabha from these States will go down sharply.

The victory of 12 Congressmen from Punjab in the Lok Sabha poll has increased the party's strength in that House to 243. The Lok Sabha's effective strength at the moment is 537. The ruling party needs the support of 269 members for a clear majority. It has the support of 16 members belonging to parties supporting it. They are the AIADMK (11), Muslim League (two), Kerala Congress-Mani (one), Majlis-e-Ithadi Muselmeen (one), and the United Communist Party of India (one). This brings the total to 259—10 short of the magic figure.

Congress leaders say they can bank upon the support of six unattached members—four belonging to the Ajit group expelled by the Janata Dal and two breakaway members of the Shiv Sena. This will still leave the party four short of the majority. There is, however, no dearth of smaller parties like the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha who may be willing to come to the rescue of the ruling party when threatened by the joint Opposition.

Govt's legitimacy in doubt: The poll statistics throw doubts on the legitimacy of the new Punjab Government. The Congress, which has polled merely 14 lakh odd votes out of a total electorate of 1.31 crore, accounts for only nine per cent poll-

ing. One crore of the 1.31-crore electorate chose not to exercise their franchise. Of the 31.45 lakh votes polled, 1.38 lakh votes were rejected, reducing the total of valid votes polled to 30.1 lakh.

This is a dismal contrast to the 1985 elections when the polling percentage was 67.5. In fact, ever since the formation of the present State of Punjab in 1966 the polling percentage has always hovered between 64.3 and 72.3. Significantly, 25 candidates won the elections by polling less than 5,000 votes each. Another 26 won by polling between 5,000 and 10,000 votes.

S. Korea Backs India

SOUTH Korea supports India's stand on nuclear non-proliferation for all countries, including those who were nuclear powers before the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) was introduced, the South Korean ambassador, Mr Joung Binn Lee, indicated in New Delhi on February 26.

The ambassador explained that he was aware of India's position on the NPT. He realised this country's compulsions on insisting that bilateral arrangements on non-proliferation in South Asia with Pakistan would have no relevance so long as China, the central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union, and other countries in the region continued to possess nuclear arms.

The Korean peninsula faced a similar situation. He urged India to prevail upon North Korea to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its nuclear installations. Seoul feels that New Delhi can use its influence with North Korea and was in a position to give friendly advice to Pyongyang.

Observers feel, however, that India which, unlike North Korea, has refused to sign the NPT, and is under tremendous pressure to do so, is hardly in a position to give advice on this issue.

The point made by the ambassador was that, unlike India, North Korea had agreed to IAEA inspection, as well as the NPT. As such, it was morally obliged to abide by these conditions. If North Korea had doubts, it should not have agreed to

sign the NPT, nor to inspection of its nuclear installations by the IAEA. South Korea had 10 nuclear power stations all of which were open to inspection by the IAEA. North Korea was now dragging its feet on inspection, which has made Seoul a little suspicious. He felt the matter would have to go to the UN Security Council, if North Korea refused to allow inspection.

Reforms in More Areas

PRESIDENT R. Venkataraman, in his opening address to the budget session of Parliament late in February, expressed the Government's determination to continue its efforts to restructure the economy for greater productivity and growth. "Changes have been made in industrial, fiscal and trade policies. This process of change will continue and will have to be extended to other important sectors of the economy", he stated.

At the same time, the Government would take steps to protect the interests of workers who might be affected by the new reforms. It would continue its bid to check the rise in prices and strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS).

The address covered a wide range of issues, including Pakistan's continued support to terrorists in Kashmir and Punjab, creation of more job opportunities, the Eighth Plan priorities, agricultural growth, housing and health. The President noted with satisfaction that despite many serious problems, the Government had fulfilled its assurance to hold elections in Punjab. The Government is committed to finding a just and amicable solution to all outstanding issues in the State. The Rajiv-Longowal accord was a step in this direction.

Referring to the situation in Kashmir, he said the Government had launched a massive operation against the terrorists who were being aided from across the border. The recent bid by terrorists to make intrusions through the Line of Control caused a serious threat to peace in the area. "Action, though belated, on the ground by Pakistan and diplomatic moves by the Government succeeded in meeting this grave threat."

Some groups of terrorists had surrendered with their arms. "Discussions have been held in different fora to activate a meaningful interaction with the people." At the same time, the Government was continuing its efforts to speed up economic development and expanding employment opportunities. An advisory committee had also been set up at the State level.

ULFA Issue: Referring to the situation in the eastern region, he said the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) had shown willingness to seek a negotiated settlement of problems of Assam within the framework of the Constitution. The army operations in the State had been suspended pending a dialogue.

Following the speedy steps taken by the Government, the balance of payments problem had been handled successfully and the foreign exchange reserves now stood at over Rs 10,000 crore. The pledged gold had been redeemed and outflow of capital checked. International confidence in India was being restored.

Stress on Checking Terrorism

INDIA has called upon the UN Commission on Human Rights to take the lead in bringing sustained pressure of world public opinion against terrorists and subversives with a view to preserving and promoting the human rights of millions of ordinary people. The single most pernicious threat to the enjoyment of human rights came from terrorism and narco-terrorism, the leader of the Indian delegation, Mr V.N. Gadgil, told the 53-nation commission at its session in Geneva.

Mr Gadgil regretted that the attention being given to brutal and systematic violations of the human rights of innocent people by terrorists was not commensurate with the scale of their brutality and their contempt for the right to life of human beings. Concentration of attention on governments which were fighting terrorism to preserve human rights while minimising attention on the major threat to human rights posed by terrorism was a matter of concern.

Sustained pressure of world public opinion against terrorists and

subversives was essential if the Commission's members were genuinely interested in the preservation and promotion of the human rights of millions of ordinary people.

The implementation of human rights instruments did not give the international community or nations acting in its name the right to violate the principles of sovereignty enshrined in the UN Charter.

Democratic governments based on the will of their people were, in any case, immediately accountable to their people for the exercise of their human rights. The primary responsibility of democratically elected governments was the welfare of their people and international obligations could not override constitutional responsibilities of governments to their own people. Confining human rights only to civil and political privileges and giving lesser importance to poverty and want by treating them as irrelevant to the enjoyment of human rights was unacceptable.

New Pollution Control Policy

THE Union Government announced on February 22 its new pollution control policy which seeks to tighten the existing regulatory mechanisms and introduce market-oriented price mechanisms to influence people's behaviour to avoid excessive use of natural resources.

Announcing the policy, the Minister of State for Environment, Mr Kamal Nath, said maximum use of legislation and regulation, fiscal incentives, voluntary agreements, educational programmes and information campaigns would play a key role in the policy implementation.

The policy statement prescribes a comprehensive approach to integrate environmental and economic aspects in development planning. The policy lays stress on preventive aspects for pollution control and promotion of technological inputs to reduce industrial pollutants. "The emphasis will be on clean technologies and not clean up technologies", observed the Minister.

Another objective is to integrate environmental consideration into decision-making at all levels. This will be taken up in five steps, includ-

ing prevention of pollution at source and involvement of the public in decision making.

The pollution control norms will be revised to lay down mass-based standards, which will set specific limits to encourage minimisation of waste, promote recycling and re-use of materials as well as conservation of natural resources.

India to Sign Montreal Treaty

A new dimension has been added to the worldwide effort to save the ozone layer. India has now decided to sign the Montreal Treaty designed for this purpose. Earlier, it had urged some amendments to the treaty.

President Bush announced, before the campaign for his re-election was started, that the US would halt the production of CFCs by 1995. This was five years ahead of the schedule drawn up by the signatories of the international treaty on this topic; it was called the Montreal Protocol. He also called upon other countries to follow suit. But, in reality the US was following European countries, who had decided to advance the phase-out schedule to 1997 or 1995, but the US resistance was the major stumbling block.

The US, which manufactures and consumes over 40 per cent of these chemicals, used mainly as refrigerants, coolants, and cleaning agents in electronics, had resisted the phase-out effort on the plea that the data linking the chemicals to the depletion of ozone was inadequate.

India, China and other developing countries resisted joining the protocol till certain discriminatory clauses were amended. These amendments were agreed to at a meeting of the signatories in London in June, 1990.

Experts say that India's stubborn stand is likely to cost it dearly. In January this year China signed the protocol and India will have to wait to get assistance from the fund which will initially help the country to conduct studies about the switchover costs, and evaluation of CFC substitutes under various stages of development abroad.

India, UK Pact on Terrorism

THE Indo-Britain Extradition Treaty and the agreement to confiscate, on a reciprocal basis, the assets of terrorists and drug runners in either country, signed in London on February 28 mark a new international model for cooperation against terrorism. The two accords also usher in a new legal regime between the two countries for tackling the twin problem of terrorism and drug trafficking.

Each side will now seek the appropriate government and parliamentary affirmation for these agreements. In reality, the treaties come into effect immediately, according to official sources.

The agreement was initialled after four days of official-level talks between the two countries. Mr P.S. Rao, Joint Secretary (legal and treaties) Ministry of External Affairs, signed the agreements on behalf of India. Two senior officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth office, Mr Jeoff Underwood and Mr Peter Vallance, signed the extradition treaty and the agreement on confiscation of terrorist funds respectively for the British Government. The official-level talks were preceded by the ministerial-level negotiations in New Delhi during the visit of the Home Secretary, Mr Kenneth Baker, in January.

The confiscation agreement is the first of its kind in the world where two countries act together on the subject. India is the first country with which Britain has signed such an agreement. The extradition treaty, too, is the first between Britain and another Commonwealth country. The two agreements demonstrate the importance which Britain and India attach to the fight against the evils of international terrorism and drug trafficking.

N-Plants in India Safer than Chernobyl

DR P.K. Iyengar, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, has claimed that the safety measures in the nuclear installations in India were stronger by about "four stages" than Chernobyl. Speaking in "Nuclear science for national development" at the regional research laboratory at

Bhubaneswar, Dr Iyengar said India was the only country in the world where the entire cycle of nuclear power generation, from uranium mining at Jaduguda to dumping of wastes, was done indigenously through a safety conscious system with least ecological damage. Dr Iyengar explained that the nuclear installations in the country were very safe. The Chernobyl mishap is the only example of its kind among the 420 reactors in the world. "An accident is an accident", he said.

Tracing the history of nuclear research in the country since the installation of the 400-MW reactors at Tarapur in 1969, Dr Iyengar said the country has enough resources for self-reliance in nuclear power generation for the next 1,200 to 1,500 years. The country has come a long way since Tarapur had crossed the second stage in fast breeder reactors.

Through comparative figures of other sources of power, Dr Iyengar said nuclear power was commercially viable. One gram of uranium generates one MW of electricity which required thousands of tonnes of coal. The country has an installed capacity to generate 1,500 MW of nuclear power and if a suitable strategy was adopted, this could be raised to 2,000 MW in the next five years and to 8,000 MW by the turn of the century. But India's nuclear power generation was insufficient even in comparison to Eastern Europe. Nuclear power generation saves transportation and labour cost. In the world, nuclear power generation through 926 power stations comprises 18 per cent of the total power generated.

India-China Talks on Boundary Issue

INDIA and China on February 22 agreed to establish a hotline between the border personnel and institutionalise regular meetings between the military personnel twice a year as a part of a series of confidence-building measures for ensuring peace and tranquility in the areas along the Line of Actual Control.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said at the end of the Foreign Secretary-level talks held in Delhi, aimed at resolving the three

decade old boundary question, that the progress achieved was "meaningful and tangible".

The significance of the fourth meeting of the Joint Working Group was that both delegations for the first time had Defence Ministry officials from the civilian side and an Army officer of Brigadier level from the two sides.

As part of the bilateral visits, the President, Mr R. Venkataraman, will visit Beijing in May. The Defence Minister, Mr Sharad Pawar, and the External Affairs Minister, Mr Mahavsinh Solanki, accepted invitations to visit China possibly this year. China's Deputy Chief of the Army Staff, Gen Xu Xin, will visit India later this year.

A joint press release issued for the first time since the Working Group was established in 1988, indicated that the two sides agreed in principle to provide prior intimation regarding military exercises that would reflect the state of improved relations between the two countries. The Joint Working Group had four rounds of discussions spread over two days and 80 per cent of suggestions put across the table were accepted.

The two countries agreed that, instead of taking a rigid stand, both sides would work in cooperation to resolve the boundary question. The Chinese side emphasised that the substantive problem relating to the boundary question needed an approach of "sincerity and patience". The two Foreign Secretaries described their discussions as "satisfactory, meaningful and positive". This time the JWG moved from concepts to specifics and from ideas to measures in regard to stabilisation of the LAC and building on the peace and tranquility there to resolve the boundary question.

It was agreed that the military personnel of the two sides would have regular meetings in June and October every year at Bumla Pass in the eastern sector and in the Spangur gap area in the western sector. China, he said, wanted Indo-Pakistan problems to be resolved peacefully.

The question of nuclear non-proliferation also came up for discussion. China voiced support for

Pakistan's proposal for a five-nation summit to resolve the nuclear issues in South Asia. Mr Xu appreciated India's reservations on the proposal for a five-nation summit.

India, Russia sign Protocol

INDIA and the Russian Federation agreed in the last week of February to continue with the rupee trade during 1992 as a transitional arrangement and signed a trade protocol for the year envisaging a two-way turnover of Rs 7,500 crore with a technical credit provision of Rs 850 crore from India.

In addition to the trade under the bilateral rupee clearing arrangement, the protocol also provides for hard currency trade between business organisations of the two countries. The protocol, which is the first legal document to have been signed between India and the Russian Federation, envisages trade and business cooperation at the enterprise level in the form of barter, buy back and counter-trade.

Under the trade protocol, exports from Russia will include petroleum crude, kerosene, diesel, non-ferrous metals, synthetic rubber and newsprint. Exports from India will mainly comprise tea, coffee, textile items, black pepper, soyabean extractions, castor oil, medicines, shoe uppers, paints, cosmetics, detergents and plastic products.

An agreement on trade and economic cooperation between India and Russia was also finalised and initialled by the leaders of the two delegations.

India-Kazakhstan Pact: India and the Republic of Kazakhstan signed a framework agreement on cooperation in trade, economic relations and science and technology. Following this agreement, the two countries will conclude a trade agreement and a trade protocol for 1992 during the forthcoming visit of an official delegation from Kazakhstan to India.

Both sides agreed to continue and consolidate their historic friendship and cooperation and impart a new impulse to the ties in trade, economic relations and science and technology. One of the two countries agreed to accord each other

the most-favoured-nation treatment in all matters of trade and economic cooperation.

The framework agreement provides for payments and settlements to be made in a manner to be mutually agreed upon by the two countries. Both sides have agreed to encourage investment, technology cooperation and joint ventures. The agreement, valid for five years, also provides for promotion of contacts between the trading and industrial enterprises of the two countries through exchange of business delegations, participation in fairs and exchange of information.

Armed Conflict on Eastern Border?

DANGER signs of an armed conflict have become visible on the India-Burma border. Myanmar (Burma) threatens to create trouble on the border with India. An Assam daily reports that the relationship between the two countries has deteriorated sharply after 2500 Myanmar nationals who inhabit the villages along the border, fled the country and took refuge in Nagaland. They were running away from the Myanmar army which had gone on a rampage killing and torturing the villagers, most of them Muslims.

The trouble started when an army patrol was ambushed by Myanmar student activists in the border areas. Soon afterwards, the Myanmar army took revenge by attacking villages across the border in Nagaland. The Myanmar nationals appealed to the Nagaland Government to give them protection on humanitarian grounds. Unable to turn down their desperate pleas, the Indian authorities issued permits allowing them to stay in the country initially for 15 days. The permits are likely to be extended. "After all, the villagers cannot be pushed back into the jaws of death", observes newspaper.

The military rulers of Myanmar, however, are spitting venom at the Indian Government, accusing it of "giving succour to Myanmar insurgents and providing them with arms and training". They have also charged India with attempting to destabilise the Myanmar economy by

flooding the neighbouring country with fake "Kyat" (Myanmar currency). The Indian authorities have termed the charges as figments of the imagination.

The Myanmar Government is reportedly out to take revenge by making in-

cursions into Indian territory and repeatedly attacking villages near the border on the Indian side. Security measures have been strengthened along the Indo-Myanmar border and the armies of the two countries are ready for any eventuality.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

◆ SIGNS OF PEACE IN YUGOSLAVIA ◆ GORBACHOV READY TO FACE TRIAL ◆ PAK SWITCH ON AFGHANISTAN ◆ PAK ARMY IN POWER STRUGGLE ◆ PAK TO BLOCK JKLF BID ◆ PAK NOT TO GO FOR N-OPTION ◆ PAK, CHINA PACTS FOR N-PLANT ◆ U.S. LIFTS CURBS AGAINST CHINA ◆ INDIA, PAK LARGE MILITARY SPENDERS ◆ UN CHIEF'S PLAN FOR PEACE ◆

Signs of Peace in Yugoslavia

BESET by mounting opposition over the human and economic toll of the conflict with Croatia, President Globodan Milosevic of Serbia declared the war over on February 28. In another sign of peace, the Croatian President, Mr Franjo Tudjman, ordered the demobilisation of 20,000 reservists. An aide said the order would take effect immediately and was the first step in a plan to rebuild war-torn Croatia.

"Today we can say that most of the agony in our country is over, and that conditions now exist for the peaceful and democratic solution of the Yugoslav crisis", Mr Milosevic told Serbia's parliament as a U.N.-mediated truce stretched to nearly two months. About 14,000 peace-keepers are to enforce the truce, while political negotiations settle the future shape of the patchwork Balkan nation.

Mr Milosevic also seemed to move away from previous insistence that Serb-dominated regions in other republics be united with Serbia. Serbia's union with tiny Montenegro in a smaller Yugoslavia was deemed to be "the best option".

But his close ally and a prominent Serb, Mr Borislav Jovic, contradicted Mr Milosevic by saying the self-proclaimed Serb republic of Krajina in western Croatia should be part of Yugoslavia. Croat leaders have vowed to fight rather than giving up any territory.

Croatia and Slovenia have received international recognition as

independent States and Bosnia Hercegovina and Macedonia are following that path. There is also growing opposition within Montenegro to a union with Serbia, the Yugoslav federation's largest republic.

Various leaders and diplomats from different parts of Yugoslavia have welcomed the decision to deploy UN peace-keeping forces there. The chairman of the Yugoslav Government committee on cooperation with U.N. representatives, Mr Borislav Jovic said the Security Council resolution on Yugoslavia would mark a historic turnabout.

With this decision, the international community has contributed decisively to the strengthening of peace in Yugoslavia and hence generated conditions for opening dialogues on a political and comprehensive solution of Yugoslavia's crisis. UN Peace troops will not automatically resolve the conflict but their arrival will create pre-requisites for continuing the talks on outstanding issues.

Gorbachov Ready to Face Trial

THE former Soviet President, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov said in an interview to a German daily on February 28 that he was prepared to face trial to defend his record, but refused to be considered a "scapegoat". Asked by the mass circulation newspaper about prosecution calls by hardline communists blaming him for the collapse of the Soviet Union, Mr Gorbachov replied: "If society need that, I am ready. I am not afraid and I have nothing to lose."

"I hold Perestroika (restructuring) to be something important and necessary, but nobody will be able to turn me into a scapegoat", he went on. "I received one letter recommending that I commit suicide but I get support in hundreds of letters."

Mr Gorbachov also denied the report that he had amassed a personal fortune and that he owned several country houses. He also challenged all the banks in the world to release information about his bank accounts. "That is the only way I can prove that I do not have a foreign bank account", he said.

Mr Gorbachov disclosed that he had no plans to leave Russia, saying: "I will help the Russian Government to carry out its political programme... my aim is not to found a political party."

Pak Switch on Afghanistan

THE latest reports indicate that the prospects of peace in Afghanistan have brightened following Pakistan's decision to abandon efforts to force the Afghan issue militarily and, instead, pursue a political settlement.

On January 27, Pakistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Siddique Kunju, announced that Pakistan would put its weight behind the five-point U.N. formula which prescribed an end to arms supplies to Afghanistan and a cease-fire before calling a meeting of the grand assembly (Loya Jirga) to decide the establishment and composition of an interim government in Kabul that could hold an election in the country to bring to power a government chosen by the people.

Pakistan has also indicated that it would exercise its influence with the Mujahideen groups for promoting a consensus on the issue. Since the abortive Mujahideen offensive on the city of Jalalabad in 1989, and more recently on Gardez, the voice of moderates in the Pakistani establishment and the intelligentsia has steadily gained strength.

After the withdrawal of the Soviet forces the military ineptitude of the Mujahideen could no longer be glossed over. In strategic terms, they have gained nothing significant in the three years since the last Soviet

soldier pulled out of Afghanistan. In spite of the most sophisticated military hardware supplied by the U.S.A. and logistic and material support and even the direct involvement of Pakistani army units and the I.S.I., the siege of Jalalabad failed. Their recent offensive on Gardez also petered out. They did, however, manage to capture the small garrison town of Khost, just beyond the Khyber Pass and of little strategic importance for Kabul.

Irreconcilable differences between various Mujahideen groups—organised on tribal loyalties and not a common nationalist outlook—has precluded them from offering a credible challenge to Dr Najibullah. No longer does anyone seriously believe that the Mujahideen "Jihad" forced the Soviet army to retreat, except the Mujahideen and the Jamaat-e-Islami of Pakistan.

Now that U.S. aid to Pakistan has dried up, the social and economic costs of its Afghan operations have assumed serious proportions. It is saddled with more than 3 million armed Afghan refugees, mostly in Baluchistan and the N.W.F.P.

Pak Army in Power Struggle

ANOTHER power struggle is currently in progress in Pakistan. The army, particularly its Chief, General Asif Nawaz Janjua, is in the eye of a storm whose outcome will determine whether it will continue as a major player in the three-cornered power structure which governs the country. The other two limbs of the governing trioka are the President, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Personalities may come and go, but power in Pakistan revolves around these three institutions.

Domestically, the foremost challenge confronting the army is how to clean up the mess in a State-controlled unit which is in the red, thanks to years of politicking and mismanagement. A serving Lt-General has been placed in charge of the clean-up operations at the Karachi-based Pakistan Steel enterprise.

The army faces a challenge on the foreign policy front also. General Asif Nawaz gave his blessings to the UN-

Afghan peace formula at a crucial meeting of the Afghan cell. It was after this meeting that Pakistan formally announced in January its acceptance of the UN peace plan. Since then, discordant voices have been heard on the Afghan settlement from the establishment.

The MQM is in alliance with the ruling Islami Jamhoori Ittehad (IJI) government in Sindh and has a representation in the IJI federal government as well. Mr Islam Nabi, the MQM Federal Minister, moaned that matters at the major steel mill could not be improved by "tinkering" and that the management should concentrate on reducing losses.

But truly embarrassing for the army has been the certificate of patriotism given by Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan to the MQM supremo Mr Altaf Hussain.

Pak to Block JKLF Bid

PAKISTAN will block any subsequent move by the JKLF to cross the Line of Control (LC) into India, the Pakistan Interior Minister, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, said even as the POK Government threatened to ban the outfit if it indulged in "terrorist activities".

Islamabad would take necessary measures to avoid any confrontation between civilians and law enforcing agencies over the issue.

To a question about the JKLF call to make a second attempt to cross the LC on March 30, Mr Hussain did not rule out the use of force in containing the processionists. On February 12, at least 17 people were killed and about 200 injured when the JKLF marchers clashed with the police and paramilitary forces in Chinari near the Indo-Pak border. However, the Pakistan-occupied government has put the number of those killed at six and the number of injured at 48. Islamabad hopes that the JKLF should see reason in Pakistan's decision to prevent the marchers. The decision was "in line with the Pakistan Government's policy of finding a peaceful solution to the Kashmir problem."

Pak not to Go for N-option

PAKISTAN has said it would not forgo its nuclear options

unilaterally but at the same time use its nuclear capability for peaceful purposes.

"Pakistan is not producing nuclear weapons, does not possess a nuclear explosive device nor has any intention of making one", the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs claimed on February 21. He urged India to respond "positively" to the proposals made by it to keep the South Asian region free from nuclear weapons. If India responded positively, other countries of the region could devote themselves to the task of economic development, he said.

The U.S. had stopped \$ 560 million of military and economic aid to Islamabad in October, 1990, on the suspicion that Pakistan was trying to acquire a nuclear explosive device. Despite the efforts by Pakistan, including the recent visit to Washington by the Foreign Secretary, Mr Shahryar Khan, and the Chief of Army Staff, Gen Asif Nawaz Janjua, the US had declined to resume its aid to Islamabad.

A statement was made by the Pakistan Foreign Office that Pakistan, having acquired a certain capability in the nuclear field, would not transfer sensitive nuclear technology to a third country.

Australian concern: Australia has expressed concern over Pakistan's nuclear programme which, it says, runs counter to the global nuclear disarmament regime's policies.

Saying his country was "deeply distressed" by Pakistan's nuclear programme, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Gareth Evans, said in a statement towards the close of February, "Pakistan's admission has essentially the same significance as India's detonation of a nuclear explosive device in 1974." The Minister was referring to the Pakistan Foreign Secretary Mr Shahryar Khan's statement reported in the "Washington Post" in which he had clearly announced Pakistan's capability to produce a nuclear bomb.

According to him, "neither act contributed to the security of South Asia and both challenge the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, which the overwhelming

majority of the community of nations subscribes to as fundamental to their security". He hoped that the "greater transparency" that now exists about the Pakistani nuclear weapons programme would provide a basis for winding back and eliminating nuclear rivalry in the region. Australia is optimistic that the current five-power proposal may provide an acceptable basis for progress.

Pak, China Pacts for N-plant

PAKISTAN and China on February 23 signed two subsidiary contracts relating to a 300-MW nuclear power plant, it was officially announced. The nuclear power plant which Pakistan purchased from China is being set up at Chashma near Mianwali. The main contract for the power plant was concluded in Beijing on December 31, 1991.

The contracts were signed by the President of the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), Mr Jian Xinxiong, and the Chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Dr Ishfaq Ahmed.

According to an official press release, Mr Jian assured that the Chinese side would do its best to complete the project according to schedule and that the plant would function efficiently and safely. Mr Jian, who was heading a high-power delegation also met the Pakistan President, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and apprised him about the "cooperation between China and Pakistan in the peaceful uses of atomic energy".

US Lifts Curbs Against China

THE U.S. announced late in February that it was lifting trade sanctions against China after receiving a pledge from Beijing that it will abide by an international accord restricting missile exports. The State Department announced in a communique that it was lifting the sanctions that were imposed in June 1991 after the US learned that China was exporting missile technology. The US had retaliated by suspending the sales of high-speed computers, satellite parts and sensitive equipment to Chinese weapons firms.

The missile technology exported by two Chinese companies was covered by guidelines of the Missile

Technology Control Regime (MTCR), which seeks to limit ballistic missile proliferation. "China's written commitment to abide by the MTCR guidelines and parameters is an important step forward in securing Chinese support for ballistic missile non-proliferation", a communique stated.

Meanwhile, China welcomed the US decision to lift a ban on high technology exports, but failed to set a date when it will abide by an international accord restricting missile exports.

"Upon the effective lifting of the sanctions by the US Government, China will act in accordance with the existing MTCR guidelines and parameters in its export of missiles and missile technology", a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Xinhua welcomed the US announcement as "a positive step" towards the improvement of relations between the two countries.

India, Pak Large Military Spenders

THE US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, in its annual report on world military expenditures and arms transfers, describes India and Pakistan as "South Asia's largest military spenders". But without making allowance for the relative size of the two countries, their populations, the different nature of the threats they face, the higher per capita military spending by Pakistan and the higher percentage of men in Pakistan's armed forces compared to India, tilts the blame against India. It however acknowledges that India's military expenditure has fallen and Pakistan's risen.

Military expenditures in India and Pakistan, South Asia's largest military spenders, experienced rapid growth during the decade, according to the report. Indian spending, which accounted for 74 per cent of the total South Asian military expenditures over the decade 1979-1989, increased steadily throughout four-fifths of the decade and resulted in a growth rate of 5.8 per cent for the decade and 2.3 per cent for the last half.

Following the 1987 peak in military expenditures of \$ 8.9 billion, Indian spending has decreased, ultimately falling 8 per cent by 1989.

Military expenditure in Pakistan increased at a much more rapid pace—8.6 per cent during the decade and 5.8 per cent during the last half. An especially large increase occurred in 1983 when Pakistani military expenditure jumped nearly 26 per cent. Even so, Pakistan's military expenditure made up only 19 per cent of the South-Asia total over the decade.

India and Afghanistan, South Asia's largest arms importers during 1985-89, acquired \$ 16.1 billion and \$ 9.7 billion worth arms. In 1989 Afghanistan was the second largest arms importer in the world after Saudi Arabia and India. Pakistan, not among the world's top 25 arms importers, was a distant third in South Asia, accumulating some \$ 2 million in arms imports.

UN Chief's Plan for Peace

THE UN Secretary-General, Mr Boutros Ghali, has recommended mounting of the world body's second biggest peace keeping operation to prepare Cambodia for free and fair elections and a democratic government.

The operation, which is expected to cost at least \$ 2 billion is scheduled to be completed by the spring of 1993 with the installation of a democratically elected government. But several diplomats said it may well run into 1994 because of the difficult conditions in the war-ravaged country.

The military component will comprise 15,900 troops at the height of the operation. It will be responsible for verification of withdrawal and non-return of all foreign forces, supervision of the ceasefire and related matters, including demobilisation of armed forces of four factions and their confinement to the cantonments and assisting in de-mining operations.

Besides the military component, the operation has five other components—human rights, civil administration, repatriation of refugees and rehabilitation. The electoral component will be responsible for organisation and conduct of free and fair elections. The 120-member constituent assembly will turn itself into the legislative assembly once it has drafted and adopted the constitution. Voting will be for political parties, not for candidates.

THE EXAMINER'S GUESS QUESTIONS

Q. Name the former world heavyweight champion who has been found guilty of raping a beauty queen in a hotel?

Ans. Mike Tyson

Q. Where is Barren Island situated? What is its significance?

Ans. Barren Island lies 135 km north east of Port Blair in the Bay of Bengal. It is the lone live volcano in India. It came alive in March 1991 after two centuries.

Q. Name the author of the books *Roots* and *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*?

Ans. Alex Haley

Q. What conditions have been put up by USA to give loan guarantees to Israel?

Ans. USA has asked Israel to freeze new settlement housing in the occupied territories as a condition for receiving US loan guarantees.

Q. Where will the 10th non-aligned summit be held in September 1992?

Ans. Jakarta, Indonesia

Q. What was the number of foreign tourists that visited India in 1991?

Ans. 16,77,461. The foreign exchange earned was approximately Rs 2,918 crore.

Q. What is the present strength of UN?

Ans. 175

Q. What was the rate of population growth of India in 1990-91?

Ans. 2.11. In 1951 it was 1.25. The birth rate declined from 39.9 in 1950-51 to 29.9 per thousand in 1990-91. The life expectancy has increased from 32 years in 1950-51 to 59 years in 1990-91.

Q. Who is to lead the United Nations Protection Force to be deployed in Yugoslavia?

Ans. Lt Gen Satish Nambiar,

Director General, military operations, at the army HQ in New Delhi.

Q. Effective from March 2, 1992 what is the bank lending rate on credit limits of over Rs 2 lakh?

Ans. 19 per cent. The banks have also been asked to bring down the incremental Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) from 38.5 per cent to 30 per cent and introduce a two-percentage points reduction in the interest rate on post-shipment export credit denominated in US dollars.

Q. What is the Central plan outlay for 1992-93?

Ans. Rs 48,407.08 crore. It was Rs 42,968.75 crore for 1991-92.

Q. What is the name of the largest ship to be built indigenously?

Ans. Jawaharlal Nehru. The 86,000 tonnes capacity vessel has been built by the Cochin Shipyard.

Q. What is LERMS?

Ans. Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System (LERMS) is the scheme to cover the partial rupee convertibility.

Q. As per the latest business expenses guide which two cities are the cheapest commercial centres of the world?

Ans. Delhi and Calcutta. Oslo, capital of Norway, is the most expensive city.

Q. Which foreign currency is being used by the Reserve Bank of India as the intervention currency?

Ans. Dollar. Previously it was Pound Sterling.

Q. What amount of aid has been sanctioned to India by international credit agencies for its AIDS-control programme?

Ans. \$100 million.

Q. What was the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1990-91?

Ans. At constant prices (1980-81) GDP is estimated at Rs 2,10,477

crore as against Rs 1,99,329 crore during previous year.

At current prices GDP is estimated at Rs 4,72,599 crore as against Rs 4,01,569 crore.

The per capita expenditure during 1990-91 works out to Rs 408 at current prices and Rs 1882 at constant prices as against Rs 355 and Rs 1852 respectively in 1989-90.

Q. Outline the highlights of the railway budget?

Ans. Freight rates of all items, except 15 essential commodities up by 7.5 per cent and for coal by 4 per cent.

* Minimum charge for fresh fruit and vegetables Rs 20 and for parcels and luggage up from Rs 17 to Rs 30.

* Minimum fare for AC 1st Class, AC Sleeper, First Class, AC Chair Car up by 20 per cent for all distances.

* Fifteen new trains to be introduced from July 1 this year.

* A weekly Rajdhani Express from New Delhi to Secunderabad/Bangalore to be introduced during '92-'93.

* Budget to yield Rs 1,366 crore of additional revenue.

* There will be a Rs 563 crore surplus.

Q. Outline the highlights of the 1992-93 budget?

Ans. Rupee to be made partially convertible.

* Sweeping delicensing of imports.

* Foreign investment to be allowed in share market.

* Interest rate floor reduced by 1 per cent on commercial bank loans.

* Gold bond scheme to be introduced, gold import eased.

(Contd. on Page 651)

Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

LAC: Line of Actual Control.

LERMS: Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System.

RBI: Reserve Bank of India.

AWARDS

Bharatendu Harishchandra Awards, 1990

THE 1990 Bharatendu awards have been given to eight writers for original writings in Hindi on subjects of mass communication.

The first prize has been given to Mr Jai Prakash Bharati, editor of children's publication *Naulan* for his manuscript *Balak, Bal Salutya Aur Patrakarita*.

The second prize has been awarded to Mr Manoj Kumar Pateria for his work *Hudi Vigyan Patrakarita* and the third prize to Mr Keshav Chandra Verma for his book *Shabad Ki Sakhi*.

The Bharatendu awards have been instituted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for original Hindi writing on any subject in mass communications like journalism, publication, advertising, broadcasting, films etc.

Kalidas Samman, 1991-92

THE Madhya Pradesh Government has decided to confer the Kalidas Samman for 1991-92 on eminent Kuchipudi exponent Guru Bempathi Chinna Sathyam for his excellence, creativity and outstanding contribution to dance.

Astronautical Award for Prof Rao

THE chairman of the Space Commission, Professor U.R. Rao, has been awarded the Allan D. Emil Memorial Award for international co-operation in astronautics by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). He is the first Asian to receive the award.

The award has been given in recognition of his outstanding

leadership during the past three decades in developing and promoting space technology and applications, particularly in developing nations.

Second International Film Festival for Documentary

THREE Indian film makers bagged awards at the week-long second International Film Festival for Documentary, Short and Animation Films, which concluded at Bombay on February 8, 1992.

Nilita Vachani's *Eyes of Stone* won the Golden Conch and a cash award of Rs 2.5 lakh for the best non-fiction film (under 40 minutes). Reena Mohan was adjudged the best debutant director for her film *Kum-lahul*. Kumar Shahani received a certificate of merit from the international critics jury for his documentary, *Bhawan Tarana*.

The award instituted by the family welfare department for the best documentary on family and population carried the festival's highest cash award of Rs 5 lakh. But, the jury headed by the noted British animation film-maker, John Halas, found all the films in this category unfit for the award.

The award for the best fiction film under 60 minutes, carrying a cash prize of Rs 2.5 lakh, was given to *Three Magi*, directed by Bela Szabolcs (Hungary).

The best non-fiction film, under 40 minutes, also carrying a cash prize of Rs 2.5 lakh, went to *Aunna Mundi*, directed by Godfrey Reggio (Italy).

The Cow, directed by Alexander Petrov (USSR), was adjudged the best animation film and given a cash prize of Rs 2.5 lakh. The international jury prize, with a cash award of Rs 1 lakh, was bagged by Pavel Koutsky.

Birla Awards for Literature

THE K.K. Birla Foundation has instituted three awards in the field of literature.

The *Saraswati Samman* with an award money of Rs 3 lakh, is for an outstanding work in any Indian language.

The *Vyas Samman* carries an award money of Rs 1.50 lakh and will be given for a Hindi work only.

The third award is *Bihari Puraskar* for outstanding Hindi work published during last ten years by Rajasthani writer. It carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000. Original residents as also all those who have settled down in Rajasthan for more than seven years are considered Rajasthanis for this award.

The first *Bihari Puraskar* for the year 1991 has been given to Dr Jai Singh Niraj for his collection of poems *Dharti Ka Admi*. It was published in 1985.

EXPEDITIONS

Expedition to Volcano on Barren Island

A multi-disciplinary scientific expedition organised by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) left Port Blair on February 8, 1992 for a detailed study in and around the lone live volcano in India on "Barren Island", lying 135 km north east of Port Blair in the Bay of Bengal.

The volcano in the 10 sq km Barren Island of the Andamans group came alive last March after a span of two centuries. The eruptions continued unabated till mid-October last year.

The expedition is actively guided by GSI Director General Mr C.P. Vohra, a noted explorer. A member of the first three Indian expeditions on Mount Everest Mr Vohra scaled the summit in 1965. He was also the deputy leader of the first Indian expedition to Antarctica.

Though the GSI had been monitoring the volcanism since May last year and also visited the area on a few occasions, this was the first

time that a fullfledged multi-disciplinary scientific expedition to study the various aspects of this volcano and conduct some experiments on the ocean around it was undertaken.

The Barren Island came into existence possibly one million years ago, following a submarine volcanism. This volcanism gave rise to a giant volcanic cone which was the predecessor of the present Barren Island. The ancient volcanic cone subsequently blew up leaving behind a relict cauldron.

Link with Antarctica team established

THE Pune-based Research and Development Establishment has successfully set up voice and data links with scientists, engineers and technologists in Antarctica through a dedicated high frequency (HF) link.

The first communication with *Maitri*, the Indian station situated almost at the South pole, was established by the R and DE (engineers) on January 6, 1992, in voice mode. It was followed up with data link despite several problems like bad weather and magnetic storms.

The new link would replace the present communication system which depends on expensive international communication satellites. It would also help in remotely monitoring the engineering systems and also make accessible scientific data to the Indian team in the most inaccessible continent of the world where the average winter temperature ranges from minus 30 degrees to minus 70 degrees celcius.

Every year members of the Indian team spend about six months in Antarctica. Without such a reliable, cheap and effective communication system, communication became extremely costly, complicated and frustrating for the team members, thus hampering research work.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Synchrotron radiation facility by year-end

INDIA will become a key member of an exclusive 15-nation club when its first synchrotron radiation facility, INDUS-1, an advanced

nuclear particle accelerator, is commissioned later this year at the Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT), Indore.

A more powerful version of the accelerator, INDUS-2, also being built indigenously, will be commissioned in 1996. Twenty-six such facilities are in operation in developed countries, including the US, UK, Japan, France, Germany, Sweden and Russia, while 17 more are under construction in Brazil, China, Taiwan and South Korea and 10 more are being planned

Particle accelerators have many important applications. The high energy particle beams are an effective probe for unravelling the innermost structure of the matter and the forces that govern its behaviour. The higher the energy of the particles, the smaller is the size of the matter that can be studied. Smaller accelerators are finding increasing use in medicine and industry. These accelerators are also used widely in industry for treatment of materials, welding, drilling of refractory metals and etching of microchips in the production of integrated circuits.

RESEARCH

Pre-human fossil 2.4 m years old

SCIENTISTS say they have identified the oldest well-documented fossil specimen of the immediate predecessors of humans, pushing back the direct evidence for this evolutionary line by 5,00,000 years.

According to them the three-inch scrap of skull bone found 25 years ago in Kenya was 2.4 million years old and came from a member of the evolutionary group called "Homo".

The finding, however, would not change scientific understanding of human evolution because stone tools made 2 million years ago have already been attributed to a member of Homo.

But, until now, there had been no strong evidence that members of Homo lived that long ago.

When the bone fragment, which included the hole for the right ear and the part that met the lower jaw was found, researchers said they did not

know whether it came from Homo or from related creatures called "australopithecines".

Researchers cited two features characteristic of Homo. One indicated that part of the creature's brain was directly over the jaw joint, whereas in australopithecines the brain did not extend out that far. The other characteristic was the sharp angle of a ridge of bone called the petrous crest on the inside of the skull.

SPACE RESEARCH

Pioneer-10's Odyssey in space continues

PIONEER-10 had set out for Jupiter, 20 years ago, carrying a message from earthlings, just in case.

The nuclear-powered spacecraft is now billions of kilometres away further from earth than any other human made object and still beaming back precious scientific data as it hurtles deeper and deeper into space.

The great technical miracle of the whole thing is that we can receive intelligible data from billion of miles away using only eight watts of radio power. That's great human achievement.

The faint radio pulses eventually will disappear and power to the scientific instruments will cease, probably around the year 2000. But Pioneer-10's odyssey will go on and on, barring collision.

No one knew what to expect when Pioneer-10 was hoisted into space by an Atlas-Centaur rocket on March 2, 1972. The 250 kg craft was designed to operate for a minimum 21 months, just long enough to fly by Jupiter and take pictures of the mysterious, giant planet.

NASA worried whether the aluminium and magnesium probe would make it through the asteroid belt, a massive band of rock and dust orbiting between Mars and Jupiter, which a spacecraft had never passed before.

Pioneer 10 entered the asteroid belt in July 1972 and emerged unscathed seven months later. The spacecraft survived another trial in December, 1973, in Jupiter's intense

radiation belts.

When pioneer 10 crossed Neptune's orbit in 1983 it became the first human-made object to leave the solar system.

If it continued on its path, at a speed of thousands of kilometres per hour, it would pass within three light years of a star called Ross 248 in 32,610 years.

Seven of the 11 scientific instruments of the spacecraft still work, including Van Allen's telescope. They monitor solar wind, cosmic particles and ultraviolet glow. Scientists scrutinize the data for evidence of a 10th planet and signs of the heliopause, the outer limits of the sun's influence. Pioneer 10's radio signals take seven hours to reach earth.

Signals are received once, sometimes twice a day.

For anyone or anything that might be out there, Pioneer 10 bears a plaque. It shows a naked man and woman standing side by side. The man's right hand is raised in greeting.

UN

UN admits former Soviet republics

THE United Nations General Assembly has admitted on March 2, 1992 nine members, including San Marino and eight republics of the former Soviet Union, thus raising its membership to 175.

The eight republics are: Moldova, Kirgistan, Armenia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

MISCELLANY

Solar power: new thrust area

A new kind of antenna pointed at the sun is sprouting on rooftops of remote villages, providing thousands of Indians their first encounter with electricity.

Tapping energy from a source, 150 million km away, that will last for five billion years, the antennas are part of systems designed to turn sunlight into electric power at sites, distant and so far untouched by electric

grids.

Electricity from the sun is now running at least 40,000 domestic and street lights, several hundred railway signals and 50 mini-electric plants in Indian villages. Five more solar plants will soon be up on the Andaman Islands.

Some 75 million homes around India are potential beneficiaries of solar electric power as it gradually spreads promoted by scientists, the energy department and the private industry.

"Solar electric power is the best option available for at least 10,000 isolated villages", says Dr E.V.R. Sastry, Director in the Non-Conventional Energy Sources (DNES). India has about 100,000 villages that have never seen electricity.

Some fifty remote villages around India, located across deserts, thick jungles, and mountains now boast of their own solar electric plants that feeds light, community TV sets and water pumps. The street lights run 12 hours during the night, and domestic lights come on six hours in the evenings.

Although solar photovoltaics are primarily intended to be cost-effective in remote areas, out of reach of commercial electricity, manufacturers are also eyeing urban centres as potential markets.

If the unsubsidised cost of kerosene is taken into account, light from solar lantern will cost less than half that of light from kerosene lamps.

A solar photovoltaic powered consumer market could be created in urban areas where there is a craving for a reliable standby source during hours of loadshedding. Besides answering very low power needs, this sort of an urban-movement toward solar photovoltaics could create a favourable taste for this technology.

The first solar-powered systems for medical applications are also emerging. Some Indian companies have unveiled solar-powered

refrigerators which could play a key role in keeping vaccines at the right temperatures in villages.

Inmarsat to be operational in May

THE Rs 22-crore earth station to receive Inmarsat-A signals will become operational at Arvi, near Pune, in May, facilitating enhanced maritime communications.

The station would be upgraded to receive signals from the Inmarsat-C before the first quarter of next year with additional investment of Rs 2.5 crore.

Besides 74 maritime terminals, the Union Government had sanctioned 14 terminals for land and mobile operations. Most of them are with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the Indian Oil Corporation.

India is a founder member of Inmarsat but its share had plummeted to 0.43 per cent from two per cent because of poor utilisation. However, with the setting up of the earth station the utilisation of the satellite should increase.

The Indian Space Research Organisation is trying to indigenously develop terminals for Inmarsat satellites.

VSNL would soon experiment on the use of Inmarsat satellite terminals for telephone link in trains. The experiment would be conducted initially in Shatabdi, Rajdhani or Taj Express.

June 30 to be longer by 2 secs

AN extra second will be added to the world's clocks on June 30, according to the US Naval Observatory, which keeps the official time in the United States.

The combination of a leap day and a leap second will make 1992 the longest year since 1972, when a leap day and two leap seconds were added.

This will be the 17th leap second added since 1972, when scientists decided to let their extremely accurate atomic clocks run independently of the rotation of the earth and then adjust them.

SPORTS

GAMES

Winter Olympics, 1992

Sixty five nations participated in the biggest Winter Olympics in history, held at Albertville, France, from February 9 to 23, 1992. The games were declared open by the French President, Mr Francois Mitterrand before a crowd of 33,000.

The games ended with Germany on top of the medals tally. They were followed by Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Austria and Norway, in that order.

The main highlight of the games was a gold medal won by Jacqueline Boerner of Germany in 1,500 m speedskating event. She was nearly killed in an accident about 17 months back. Her legs were so battered that she had to spend eight months learning how to walk.

BOXING

38th Senior National Championship

In a dramatic turn of events, the pugilists of Services did their team proud by bagging as many as six gold medals to retain the overall championship title in the 38th senior National Boxing Championship which concluded at Jamshedpur.

The Services boxers accumulated 53 points, same as their close rivals, Railways. But Services won the title on the basis of winning more gold medals.

The Railways, could take home only three gold medals, despite their boxers figuring in nine final bouts.

16th Asian Championship

South Korea emerged as the leading Asian boxing nation claiming six golds at the 16th Asian Boxing Championships which concluded at the Gymnasium, one of the National

Stadium, Bangkok.

India, which did not have a boxer figuring in the finals, bagged two bronzes through Dharmendra Singh Yadav and Rajendra Prasad. Incidentally Yadav was declared the most promising boxer of the tournament.

CRICKET

New Zealand-England Test Series

Third Test Match: A broken leg for England bowler David Lawrence and a scuffle involving team manager Micky Stewart marred the final day of the third cricket Test against New Zealand, which ended in a draw at Wellington.

The final Test petered out to a draw after England batsman Allan Lamb, with a sturdy century, foiled New Zealand's hopes of a consolation victory in the three match series, which England won 2-0.

Srikanth first Indian to make 4,000 runs in one-day cricket

Krishnamachari Srikanth completed 4,000 runs during his knock of 39 in India's opening World Cup engagement against England on February 22, 1992. He thus becomes the first Indian to cross the coveted mark.

For Ravi Shastri also the match was an important one. The Indian Vice-captain completed 3,000 runs in instant cricket during his knock of 50-plus.

Besides Srikanth, other Indians to reach the 3,000 tally so far have been Dilip Vengsarkar (3,508 from 129 matches), Sunil Gavaskar (3,092 from 108 matches), Kapil Dev (3,341 from 182 matches) and M Azharuddin (3,064 from 130 matches).

The following is the list of batsmen who have scored more than 4,000 runs in one-day crick-

et

Desmond Haynes (West Indies) 7,288 in 194 matches, Javed Mian-dad (Pakistan) 6,073 in 186 matches, Allan Border (Australia) 5843 in 234 matches, Dean Jones (Australia) 4,793 in 125 matches, Richie Richardson (West Indies) 4694 in 153 matches, Geoff Marsh (Australia) 4,225 in 113 matches, K Srikanth (India) 4,014 in 139 matches.

FOOTBALL

Federation Cup

Favourites Mohun Bagan missed chances galore but still beat arch rivals East Bengal by a 2-0 in the 16th Federation Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium, Calcutta.

GYMNASTICS

5th Asian Junior Championship

China retained the team titles in both the boys and girls sections of the fifth Asian Junior Gymnastics Championships held in New Delhi.

The silver went to Japan in both sections, while the two Koreas shared the bronze medals, with North winning it in the boys and South in the girls sections.

HOCKEY

Champions Trophy

Forward Andreas Becker slammed in all four goals as Germany trounced Australia 4-0 to retain the 14th Champions Trophy, played at Karachi, Pakistan.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh Gold Cup

Railway Coach Factory (Kapur-thala) lifted the Maharaja Ranjit Singh Gold Cup hockey trophy defeating favourites Punjab and Sind Bank (Delhi) via tie-breaker in the final. The teams, playing fast and attacking hockey, were tied at 1-1 after extra time. RCF won the tie-breaker 3-1.

55th Men's National Championship

Services lifted the Rangaswamy Cup with an aggregate of five goals to four against Indian Airlines in the Lifebuoy 55th men's national hockey championships.

The teams were locked 1-1 even at the end of extra time.

SQUASH

Welsh Classic Tournament

Jansher Khan greatly increased his chance of winning back the world number one ranking when he beat the second-seeded Australian Open champion Chris Dittmar to win the Welsh Classic Squash Tournament.

TENNIS

Navratilova's 158th title

Martina Navratilova won a record 158th career singles title by saving a match point to beat Czechoslovakian Jana Novotna at the 350,000-dollar Virginia Slims of Chicago Tournament.

The 35-year-old Navratilova had shared the all-time record with her longtime rival Chris Evert, who retired two years ago. Jimmy Connors holds the men's mark at 109 career singles titles.

Courier on top of the world rankings

Jim Courier became the first American in six and a half years to reach No. 1 in the world by defeating Derrick Rostagno 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in a semi-final of the \$ 260,000 Volvo San Francisco tennis tournament. However, in the finals he was defeated by Michael Chang, also of USA.

By reaching the tournament's finals, Courier earned enough computer points to surpass top-ranked Stefan Edberg of Sweden.

Jimmy Connors is the only other American to be ranked No. 1 since the ATP rankings began in 1973.

Courier, 21, won the 1991 French Open and the 1992 Australian Open and was a finalist in the U.S. Open in 1991.

Examiner's Guess Questions

(Contd. from Page 646)

* Incremental Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) slashed from 38.5 to 30 per cent.

* Income tax limit raised from Rs 22,000 to Rs 28,000.

* IT slabs reduced to three. new tax limits pegged at 20, 30 and 40 per cent.

* Wealth tax limit raised to Rs 15 lakh

* Excise duty on cigarettes, cement, tyres, steel, two-wheelers, light commercial vehicles (LCVs) up Total excise proposals to yield additional Rs 2211 crore

* No change in corporate tax structure

* Partnership firms freed from double taxation

* Tax incentives to working women, senior citizens, artists and sportsmen

* Central Plan outlay for 1992-93 raised by 20 per cent over 1991-92 (Budget Estimate) and by 12.6 per cent over 1991-92 (Revised Estimate) to be Rs 48,407 crore

* Fiscal deficit for 1992-93 to be reduced to Rs 34,308 crore against Rs 37,727 (Budget Estimate) and Rs 37,992 crore (Revised Estimate) in current year 1991-92 fiscal deficit down to 6.5 per cent of GDP.

* Seven per cent hike in defence spending, pegged at Rs 17,500 crore: defence pensions up 15 per cent.

* Rs 5000 crore for fertiliser subsidy, 2000 crore for food subsidy.

* Expenditure tax on A/C restaurants eliminated.

* New scheme to attract shopkeepers and retailers in tax net.

* Substantial reduction in import duties: revenue loss to be Rs 1700 crore. Peak duty down from 150 per cent to 110 per cent.

* Double taxation of income in partnership firms to be avoided.

* Income tax schemes on voluntary retirement schemes to be extended to private sector.

* Income tax exemptions for higher income groups to be abolished, benefits under Section 88 to continue.

* Shares and bank deposits totally exempt from wealth tax.

* Tax on long-term capital gains to be adjusted for inflation, exemptions withdrawn.

* Withdrawal of deductions under 80CCA and 80CCB for savings in mutual funds.

* Deduction under 80L for unearned incomes withdrawn. Minor's income, except wage income, clubbed with that of parent.

* Capital gains tax to be a flat 20 per cent for individuals and HUFs, 40 per cent for companies and firms.

* SEBI authorised private sector mutual funds exempted from income tax

* Exemption from expenditure tax on payments in foreign exchange withdrawn

Rupee comes

Borrowing from RBI 4P

Non tax revenue 14P

Customs 18P

Internal borrowings 18P

Other capital receipts 6P

Corporation tax 6P

Income tax 6P

External borrowings 3P

Excise 23P

Other taxes 2P

Rupee goes

Central plan 13P

Interest 23P

Defence 13P

State's share of taxes and duties 14P

Non-plan assistance 6P

Subsidies 7P

State and UT plan assistance 12P

Other non-plan expenditure 12P

Q. What were the highlights of Economic Survey for 1991-92?

* Growth in GDP of about 2.5 per cent.

* Good performance by infrastructure.

* Five to 6 per cent growth in services.

* Foreign exchange reserves reach 4.4 billion

* Inflation rate down to 11.8 per cent.

* Agricultural growth static—at best negligible.

* Industrial production registers negative growth.

Appointments Etc

Appointed; Elected Etc

Santu Ranjan Burman: He has been elected as the Chief Minister of Tripura.

Beant Singh: He has been elected as the Chief Minister of Punjab.

Giora Becher: He took over as the first *chance d'affaires* of Israel to India following the decision of the two countries to have full-fledged diplomatic relations.

Thomas Pickering: He is the new Ambassador of USA to India.

P.V. Narasimha Rao: Prime Minister of India, he has been elected the President of Congress I.

Distinguished Visitors

Prince Charles and Lady Diana of Britain.

Sam Nujoma: President of Namibia.

Nursultan Nazarbayev: Presi-

dent of Kazakhstan.

Alf Svensson: Deputy Foreign Minister of Sweden.

Xu Dunxin: Deputy Foreign Minister of China.

Dato Sri Haji Mond Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak: Defence Minister of Malaysia.

Joao de Deus Pinheiro: Foreign Minister of Portugal.

Hans Van Den Broek: Foreign Minister of Netherlands.

Died

Alex Haley: The famous author of *Roots* and *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. He was 70.

Sunder: Veteran comedian of Indian film industry. He was 78.

Menachem Begin: Former Prime Minister of Israel who helped forge the historic Camp David accord with Egypt.

Rab, to find a solution to the Cauvery row, fails.

18—47 persons are killed in a wall collapse during Mahamaham festival in Kerala.

19—30 per cent turn out is reported in peaceful Punjab elections.

20—Congress I gets two-thirds majority in Punjab elections.

25—Railway Budget for 1992-93 is presented in the Lok Sabha.

—President's rule is revoked in Punjab. A 26-member Congress ministry, headed by Mr Beant Singh, is sworn-in.

29—The 1992-93 Budget is presented in the Lok Sabha by the Finance Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

MARCH

1—The partial rupee convertibility comes into effect.

3—The Reserve Bank of India switches over to the US dollar as intervention currency.

6—At least 57 people are killed in clashes, between Azerbaijan and Armenian forces, over the disputed enclave of Nagorny Karabakh.

8—At least 120 people are killed as a ferry collides with an oil tanker in the Gulf of Thailand.

9—The Congress I Government survives trial of strength in Lok Sabha. BJP amendments are defeated by 52 votes.

EVENTS

FEBRUARY

12—Pakistan authorities block attempt by Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) to cross the line of actual control. At least 12 persons are killed in firing by Pakistani troops

on the JKLF marchers.

13—In a cold-blooded operation, armed extremists massacre 39 persons in Bara village, 42 km from Gaya in Bihar.

17—The meeting called by the Prime Minister, Mr Narasimha

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QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

The questions given below were set in the Income-tax/Excise Inspectors' Examination held on the 22nd December, 1991.

We are grateful to Saroshri Ranjan Rajan and Gautam Kumar Singh of Patna for sending these questions to us.

1. The sum of two numbers is 528 and their HCF is 33. The number of pairs of numbers satisfying the above condition is:

- (a) 16 (b) 12 (c) 8 (d) 4

2. The greatest number that will divide 187, 233 and 279 leaving the same remainder in each case is:

- (a) 30 (b) 36 (c) 46 (d) 56

3. The difference between the place value of 7 in 574873 is:

- (a) 69930 (b) 59930 (c) 96390 (d) 69305

4. Water expands $9\frac{1}{11}\%$ of its volume as it freezes into ice. The cubic metres of ice which can be obtained from a 55 cubic metres of water is:

- (a) 50 (b) 60 (c) 80 (d) 75

5. The simplification of:

$$13\frac{1}{2} \div [4\frac{1}{2} - \{3 - (2 - \frac{1}{2})\}] \text{ gives}$$

- (a) $9\frac{1}{2}$ (b) $10\frac{1}{2}$ (c) $10\frac{3}{4}$ (d) $13\frac{1}{2}$

6. A man ordered 4 pairs of black socks and some pairs of brown socks. The price of a black pair is double that of a brown pair. While preparing the bill, the clerk interchanged the number of black and brown pairs by mistake which increased the bill by 50%. The ratio of the number of black and brown pair of socks in the original order was:

- (a) 4 : 1 (b) 2 : 1 (c) 1 : 4 (d) 1 : 2

7. The value of $\sqrt[3]{\frac{81}{100}}$ is:

- (a) 3 (b) 0.3 (c) 30 (d) 300

8. A four digit number divisible by 7 becomes divisible by 3 when 10 is added to it. The largest such number is:

- (a) 9987 (b) 9989 (c) 9996 (d) 9947

9. If n is any positive integer then $3^{4n} - 4^{3n}$ is always divisible by:

- (a) 7 (b) 17 (c) 112 (d) 145

10. A man plants 15625 apple trees in his garden and arranges them so that there are as many rows as there are apple trees in the row, then the number of rows is:

- (a) 125 (b) 85 (c) 105 (d) 135

11. What number should be subtracted from 23, 30, 57 and 78, so that the remainders may be proportional.

- (a) 6 (b) 5 (c) 4 (d) 7

12. A and B run round a circular garden whose circumference is 1200 metres at the rate of 210 m and 190 m per minute respectively. If they run in the opposite direction, they will meet each other in:

- (a) 2 minutes (b) 3 minutes
(c) 30 minutes (d) 40 minutes

13. A football team won 40% of the total number of matches it played during a year. If it lost 50% of the matches played and 20 matches were drawn, the total number of matches played by the team during the year was:

- (a) 40 (b) 50 (c) 100 (d) 200

14. The average monthly salary paid to 75 employees in a company is Rs 1420. The average salary of 25 of them is Rs 1350 and that of 30 others is Rs 1425. The average salary of the remaining employees is:

- (a) Rs 1350 (b) Rs 1425 (c) Rs 1500 (d) Rs 1420

15. In a bag there are coins of 25 paise and 10 paise in the ratio 6 : 17. If bag contains Rs 16 then the number of 10 paise coins is:

- (a) 30 (b) 40 (c) 70 (d) 85

16. The average of three numbers is 135. The largest number is 180 and the difference of the others is 25. The smallest number is:

- (a) 130 (b) 125 (c) 120 (d) 100

17. If Rs 1066 are divided among A, B, C and D such that A : B = 3 : 4, B : C = 5 : 6 and C : D = 7 : 5, who will get the maximum?

- (a) B (b) A (c) C (d) D

18. A man can row $9\frac{1}{3}$ km/hour in still water and he finds that it takes him thrice as much time to row up than as to row down the same distance in river. The speed of current is:

- (a) $3\frac{1}{3}$ km/hour (b) $3\frac{1}{9}$ km/hour
(c) 14 km/hour (d) $4\frac{2}{3}$ km/hour

19. Gold is 19 times as heavy as water and copper is 9 times as heavy as water. In what ratio these be mixed to get an alloy 15 times as heavy as water?

- (a) 1 : 1 (b) 2 : 3 (c) 1 : 2 (d) 3 : 2

20. The hands of a clock are 3 cm and 1 cm long respectively. The difference between the distances traversed by their extremities in 6 hours is:

- (a) 9π cm (b) 18π cm (c) 24π cm (d) 35π cm

21. A retailer buys 30 pens from a wholesaler and pays equal to marked price of 27 pens. If he sells the pens at the marked price, his profit per cent in the transaction is:

- (a) $9\frac{1}{11}\%$ (b) 10% (c) $11\frac{1}{9}\%$ (d) 20%

22. A can do a piece of work in 7 days of 9 hours each, and B can do it in 6 days of 7 hours each. How long will they take to do it, working together $8\frac{2}{5}$ hours a day.

- (a) 2 days (b) 3 days (c) 4 days (d) $4\frac{1}{2}$ days

23. A shopkeeper's charges are 20% over cost price. He allows his customers 10% off their bills for cash pay-

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

ment His net gain per cent is

- (a) 12 (b) 8 (c) 10 (d) 15

24 If A takes half as long to do a piece of work as B takes and C does it in the same time as A and B together. If all working together can finish the work in 7 days, then C does the work in

- (a) 14 days (b) 21 days (c) 35 days (d) 42 days

25 A shopkeeper first allows a discount of 20% on a certain variety of cloth and then further gives a discount of 15% to the persons holding a shareholder's coupon. The total discount received by a person holding a shareholder's coupon would be

- (a) 30% (b) 32% (c) 33.5% (d) 35%

26 An electrical fan listed at Rs 260 is sold at a discount of 10%. Due to off season, another discount of 8% is available, then its selling price is

- (a) Rs 200 (b) Rs 215.28
(c) Rs 252.72 (d) Rs 272.52

27 Two trains travel in opposite directions at 36 km and 45 km per hour and a man sitting in the slower train passes the faster train in 8 seconds. Length of the faster train is

- (a) 80 m (b) 100 m (c) 120 m (d) 180 m

28 A horse worth Rs 9000 is sold by A to B at a 10% loss. B sells the horse back to A at a 10% gain. The result is

- (a) A makes no profit or loss (b) B gains Rs 900
(c) A loses Rs 900 (d) A loses Rs 810

29 A certain sum doubles itself in a period of five years at a certain rate of simple interest. With the same rate of interest Rs 300 will amount to Rs 2400 in

- (a) 15 years (b) 20 years
(c) 30 years (d) 35 years

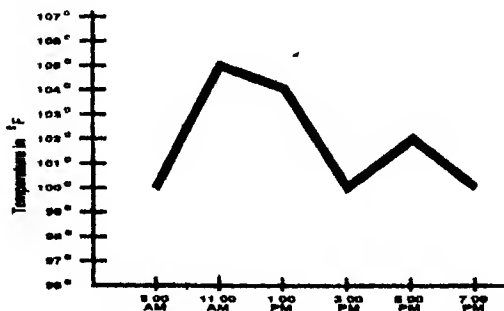
30 Mohan can do a piece of work in 40 days. He works at it for 5 days and then Sohan comes to his help and finishes it in 21 days. Hence Mohan and Sohan can do this piece of work in

- (a) 10 days (b) 12 days
(c) 20 days (d) 24 days

31 A rectangular carpet has an area of 60 sq m. Its diagonal and its longer side together equal 5 times the shorter side. The length of the carpet is

- (a) 5 m (b) 12 m (c) 13 m (d) 14.5 m

32



In the above figure the temperature of the patient at 11:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. respectively are

- (a) 100°F, 105°F (b) 100°F, 103°F
(c) 104°F, 100°F (d) 105°F, 100°F

33 A sum of Rs 4000 yields a compound interest of Rs 630.50 in 3 years, interest being compounded annually. The rate of interest per annum is

- (a) 4% (b) 5% (c) 8% (d) 10%

34 The slant height and the diameter of a conical

tomb are 25 m and 14 m respectively. The cost of polishing its curved surface at 80 paise per sq. mt. is

- (a) Rs 440 (b) Rs 44.00
(c) Rs 440.00 (d) Rs 660.00

35 Study the following table and answer the questions below

States	Student Enrolment (1980-84)				
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Maharashtra	723	840	900	920	925
Kerala	1035	940	1200	1400	1500
Karnataka	750	600	830	575	900
West Bengal	500	550	450	600	525
Andhra Pradesh	800	840	875	925	785

Which of the following statements is not correct?

- (a) In the year 1981, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh had same number of students
(b) In Andhra Pradesh, there was a continuous increase in the number of students except in the year 1984
(c) In West Bengal, the number of students was the lowest in all the years as compared to the other States
(d) In Kerala, the number of students was higher in all the years as compared to the other States

36 What sum will amount to Rs 6600 in 4 years at 8% per annum simple interest?

- (a) Rs 6000 (b) Rs 5000
(c) Rs 4000 (d) Rs 6200

37 A well with an inside diameter of 8 m is 14 m deep. Earth taken out of it has been spread evenly all around it to a width of 3 m to form an embankment. The height of the embankment approximately is

- (a) 0.68 m (b) 6.8 m (c) 68 m
(d) None of these

38 What is the speed of a car if its wheel is 0.7 m in diameter and makes 500 revolutions per minute?

- (a) 2.2 km/hour (b) 60 km/hour
(c) 66 km/hour (d) 100 km/hour

39 6×10^{14} expressed in scientific notation is equal to

- (a) 6.7×10^{31} (b) 6.7×10^{-30}
(c) 6.7×10^{31} (d) 6.7×10^{30}

40 The approximate product 26990×0.0094 to one significant figure is

- (a) 30×10^2 (b) 27×10^1
(c) 3×10^2 (d) 2.52×10^2

ANSWERS

1 (a)	2 (c)	3 (a)	4 (b)
5 (b)	6 (c)	7 (c)	8 (b)
9 (b)	10 (a)	11 (a)	12 (b)
13 (d)	14 (c)	15 (d)	16 (d)
17 (c)	18 (d)	19 (d)	20 (c)
21 (c)	22 (b)	23 (b)	24 (a)
25 (b)	26 (b)	27 (d)	28 (c)
29 (d)	30 (d)	31 (b)	32 (d)
33 (b)	34 (c)	35 (c)	36 (b)
37 (b)	38 (c)	39 (a)	40 (d)

GENERAL AWARENESS

HISTORY

1. Which of the following countries excelled all the other imperial nations of Europe at the opening of the 20th century?
 - (a) France
 - (b) Germany
 - (c) Russia
 - (d) Britain
 - (e) USA
2. John Morley, the radical thinker, whom the Labour Party in Britain considered a suitable spokesman of their opinions, was appointed the Secretary of State for India in the year:
 - (a) 1904
 - (b) 1905
 - (c) 1906
 - (d) 1907
3. Which of the following statements is false:
 - (a) Tukaram was a contemporary of Shivaji
 - (b) Nadir Shah invaded Delhi during the rule of the Mughal emperor Muhammad Shah
 - (c) The Dutch East India Company was established in the year 1602 A.D.
 - (d) the first Governor of the Portuguese possessions in India was Alfonso-de-Albuquerque
4. The first Non-aligned summit was held in 1961 in the city of:
 - (a) Belgrade
 - (b) Lusaka
 - (c) New Delhi
 - (d) Havana
5. Who among the following is associated with Macedonia?
 - (a) Alexander the Great
 - (b) Napoleon Bonaparte
 - (c) Nelson
 - (d) George Washington
 - (e) None of these
6. A resolution for complete independence of India was passed in Congress session held in:
 - (a) Lahore
 - (b) Madras
 - (c) Delhi
 - (d) Lucknow
 - (e) Calcutta
7. Ajanta caves are situated in the State of:
 - (a) Maharashtra
 - (b) Madhya Pradesh
 - (c) Orissa
 - (d) Karnataka
 - (e) Kerala
8. Who among the following was a contemporary of Kalidas?
 - (a) Ashoka
 - (b) Chandra Gupta II
 - (c) Samudra Gupta
 - (d) Prithvi Raj Chohan
 - (e) Pulakesin-II
9. Gautama Buddha was born in:
 - (a) Vaishali
 - (b) Bodh Gaya
 - (c) Lumbini
 - (d) Kapilvastu
10. The place where Tipu Sultan died fighting the British forces is known as:
 - (a) Nandi Hill
 - (b) Seringapatnam
 - (c) Hampi
 - (d) Sarnath
11. The English established their first trade centre in 1614 A.D. at:
 - (a) Chandernagore
 - (b) Calicut
 - (c) Surat
 - (d) Madras
12. Khajuraho temples were built by the:
 - (a) Chandella rulers
 - (b) Taluwa rulers
 - (c) Solenki rulers
 - (d) Chola rulers
13. Who was known as "Fuehrer"?
 - (a) Hitler
 - (b) Stalin
 - (c) Mussolini
 - (d) Napoleon
14. Who was founder of the Aligarh Muslim University?
 - (a) Madan Mohan Malaviya
 - (b) Sir Syed Ahmed Khan
 - (c) Dr Zakir Hussain
 - (d) Dr Mir Qasim
15. Who was the first woman President of the Indian National Congress?
 - (a) Vijaya Laxmi Pandit
 - (b) Indira Gandhi
 - (c) Sucheta Kripalani
 - (d) Sarojini Naidu
16. Who was the founder of "Khalsa"?
 - (a) Guru Nanak
 - (b) Guru Gobind Singh
 - (c) Guru Tegh Bahadur
 - (d) Guru Arjan Dev
17. Tripitakas is a sacred book of:
 - (a) Jainism
 - (b) Buddhism
 - (c) Sikhism
 - (d) Hinduism
18. The leader of the 1917 Russian Revolution was:
 - (a) Lenin
 - (b) Stalin
 - (c) Tolstoy
 - (d) Karensky
19. Fahein, a Chinese traveller, visited India during the reign of:
 - (a) Chandragupta Maurya
 - (b) Chandragupta Vikramaditya
 - (c) Ashoka
 - (d) Harsha
20. The slogan "Liberty, Fraternity and Equality" was raised in the:
 - (a) French Revolution
 - (b) Russian Revolution
 - (c) Irish People's Revolution
 - (d) American War of Independence
21. Bardoli Satyagraha is associated with:
 - (a) Sardar Patel
 - (b) M.K. Gandhi
 - (c) Kaka Kalelkar
 - (d) Vinoba Bhave
22. The tragedy of Jallianwala Bagh took place during the Viceroyalty of:
 - (a) Lord Curzon
 - (b) Lord Wellington
 - (c) Lord Chelmsford
 - (d) Lord Wavel
23. The date April 6, 1930, in Indian history is known for:
 - (a) first Round Table Conference in London
 - (b) Gandhi-Irwin Pact
 - (c) Dandi March by Mahatma Gandhi
 - (d) "Quit India" movement
24. Amir Khusro was the court poet of:
 - (a) Akbar
 - (b) Mohd Ghazni
 - (c) Shahjahan
 - (d) Alauddin Khilji
 - (e) Babur
25. Which of the following statements is wrong?
 - (a) Magellan was the first per-

- son to sail round the world
- (b) French Revolution took place in the year 1789
- (c) The movement for the return of Jews to Palestine was called Zionism
- (d) The Sumerian civilization flourished on the banks of the river Nile
26. Rajaraja-I was the great king of:
- (a) Chola dynasty
- (b) Chalukya dynasty
- (c) Maurya dynasty
- (d) Gupta dynasty
27. Humayun was defeated by Sher Shah Suri at Kannauj in:
- (a) 1539 A.D.
- (b) 1540 A.D.
- (c) 1543 A.D.
- (d) 1602 A.D.
28. The Surat Congress session is known for:
- (a) split between Mahatma Gandhi and Subhash Chandra Bose
- (b) split between the moderates and the extremists
- (c) passing of the "Quit India" resolution
- (d) declaration for complete independence
29. Which battle laid the foundation of the Mughal rule in India?
- (a) Battle of Plassey
- (b) Battle of Talikota
- (c) Battle of Haldighat
- (d) Third battle of Panipat
- (e) None of these
30. The name of the ruined capital of Vijayanagar Empire was:
- (a) Hampi
- (b) Halebid
- (c) Harappa
- (d) Mohenjodaro
31. What was the main reason for the mutiny of 1857?
- (a) Doctrine of Lapse
- (b) devotion to the country
- (c) use of greased cartridges
- (d) maltreatment of the local people
32. Clive laid the foundation of the British Empire by winning the battle of:
- (a) Wandiwash
- (b) Panipat
- (c) Plassey
- (d) Talikota
33. The Buland Darwaza was built to mark Akbar's conquest of:
- (a) Malwa
- (b) Chittor
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Ujjain
34. Which of the following statements is false:
- (a) Brahmo Samaj was founded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- (b) Razia Begum was the first and the only Muslim lady to sit on the throne of Delhi
- (c) Gautama Buddha was born in Lumbini
- (d) The first railway line in India ran between Bombay and Thana
- (e) None of these
35. Through which Act was the English East India Company brought under the supervision of the British Parliament?
- (a) Pitt's India Act, 1784
- (b) The Regulating Act, 1774
- (c) Government of India Act, 1919
- (d) Indian Councils Act, 1861
36. Who said "Freedom is my birth-right and I shall have it"?
- (a) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (b) Bipin Chander Pal
- (c) Mahatma Gandhi
- (d) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
37. What was the main reason behind Gandhiji's decision to call off the "Non-cooperation Movement"?
- (a) imprisonment of Gandhiji and other top-line leaders
- (b) violent incidences at Chauri Chaura in Gorakhpur district of U.P.
- (c) compromise between the Congress Party and the British government
- (d) fear of loss of too many lives in the process
38. In which year did the Cabinet Mission (of Britain) come to India?
- (a) 1936
- (b) 1942
- (c) 1944
- (d) 1945
- (e) None of these
39. Which of the following philosophers influenced the French Revolution by his thoughts?
- (a) Marx
- (b) Aristotle
- (c) Rousseau
- (d) Rene Cassin
40. Which of the following is correct in chronological order?
- (a) Russian Revolution—Chinese Revolution—American Revolution—French Revolution
- (b) Chinese Revolution—American Revolution—French Revolution—Russian Revolution
- (c) Russian Revolution—American Revolution—
- French Revolution—Chinese Revolution
- (d) American Revolution—French Revolution—Russian Revolution—Chinese Revolution
41. East India Company was established in the year:
- (a) 1532
- (b) 1587
- (c) 1600
- (d) 1701
42. What was the real name of Chanakya?
- (a) Vaisakhadatta
- (b) Vishnu Gupta
- (c) Vasubandhu
- (d) Rajyogi Gupta
- (e) Kautilya
43. The Chola dynasty was an ancient Tamil kingdom along the banks of the river:
- (a) Tapti
- (b) Godavari
- (c) Krishna
- (d) Cauvery
44. The city of Amritsar was founded in the year 1577 by:
- (a) Guru Nanak
- (b) Guru Arjan Dev
- (c) Guru Ram Das
- (d) Guru Tegh Bahadur
45. In which year did the Indian Naval Mutiny against the British take place?
- (a) 1942
- (b) 1945
- (c) 1946
- (d) 1947
- (e) 1857
46. The Government of India Act of 1935 abolished:
- (a) Bicameral Legislature
- (b) Separate Communal Elections
- (c) Dyarchy in Provinces
- (d) Provincial Autonomy
47. Which of the following is true?
- (a) The battle of Kalinga was fought in 361 B.C.
- (b) In the second battle of Tarain, Prithvi Raj Chohan defeated Mohammad Ghori
- (c) In the second battle of Panipat, Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodhi
- (d) Battle of Plassey was fought in 1757
48. The first partition of Bengal was done during the Viceroyalty of:
- (a) Hastings
- (b) Curzon
- (c) Cornwallis
- (d) Dupleix
49. The most powerful and

prosperous king of Vijayanagar Empire was:

- (a) Krishna Dev Raya
- (b) Kanishka
- (c) Tantiya Tope
- (d) Chalukya

50. Which of the following combination is false?

- (a) Dr Rajendra Prasad—First President of the Indian Republic
- (b) C. Rajagopalachari—first Indian Governor-General of Free India
- (c) Sardar Patel—First Home Minister of India
- (d) Dr Ambedkar—Chairman of the Constituent Assembly, which framed the Indian Constitution
- (e) None of these

51. Alexander invaded India in:

- (a) 526 B.C.
- (b) 326 B.C.
- (c) 226 B.C.
- (d) 326 A.D.

GEOGRAPHY

52. South Pole was discovered in 1912 by

- (a) Ronald Amundsen
- (b) Jim Corbett
- (c) Romain Rolland
- (d) Wassily Leontief

53. The National Institute of Oceanography is located in:

- (a) Bombay
- (b) Panaji
- (c) Coimbatore
- (d) Kanyakumari
- (e) Madras

54. Diurnal range of temperature is the difference between the maximum and the minimum temperature of.

- (a) a day
- (b) a week
- (c) a month
- (d) a year

55. The highest waterfall (Gersoppa Waterfall) in India is located in the State of:

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Maharashtra
- (e) Himachal Pradesh

56. On which of the following minerals does India depend largely on foreign imports?

- (a) iron ore
- (b) silica
- (c) bauxite
- (d) copper

57. Which of the following statements is wrong?

- (a) A comet gets its name after

the name of the astronomer who discovers it

- (b) Everywhere at the equator, the latitude is zero
- (c) The hottest planet of the solar system is Mars
- (d) Solar eclipse occurs when the moon comes in-between the sun and the earth

58. Which State in India produces the largest quantity of barley?

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Haryana
- (c) Punjab
- (d) U.P.

59. Which of the following rivers of Peninsular India flow towards the northern plain?

- (a) Godavari
- (b) Krishna
- (c) Luni
- (d) Chambal
- (e) Sone

60. Cuba is in:

- (a) Pacific Ocean
- (b) Atlantic Ocean
- (c) Black Sea
- (d) Red Sea

61. Which of the following substances is used for the preservation of grains?

- (a) Boric Acid
- (b) Sodium Benzoid
- (c) Potassium Permanganate
- (d) Alum

62. Number of signs in the Zodiac is.

- (a) 7
- (b) 9
- (c) 12
- (d) 27

63. Which of the following planets is nearest to the Sun?

- (a) Mercury
- (b) Mars
- (c) Uranus
- (d) Venus

64. How much per cent of the total geographic area of India is under forests?

- (a) 22.7
- (b) 30.6
- (c) 42
- (d) 45

65. Of which of the following items, India is the largest exporter in the world?

- (a) Rice
- (b) Wheat
- (c) Rubber
- (d) Cardamom

66. The innermost layer of the earth is called:

- (a) Lithosphere
- (b) Mesosphere
- (c) Ionosphere

(d) Cone

67. Olive and Cork-oak grow in:

- (a) Mediterranean type regions
- (b) Siberian type regions
- (c) Equatorial type regions
- (d) Temperate type regions

68. A depression in a range of hills is called:

- (a) Col
- (b) Ridge
- (c) Gorge
- (d) Core

69. A gorge, relatively narrow but of considerable size, bounded by steep slopes and usually formed by river, is known as:

- (a) Canyon
- (b) Atoll
- (c) Great Bear
- (d) Isthmus

70. Isohel is a:

- (a) Contour line showing equal amount of sunshine
- (b) Contour line showing equal rainfall
- (c) Contour line of magnetic declination
- (d) Line joining those places which have same barometric pressure

71. Which planet is never visible from the earth at mid-night?

- (a) Uranus
- (b) Neptune
- (c) Pluto
- (d) Venus

72. Gulf stream is a warm ocean current emerging from the:

- (a) Gulf of Mexico
- (b) Persian Gulf
- (c) Strait of Hormuz
- (d) White Sea

73. As seen from the earth, which planet passes through phases similar to those of moon?

- (a) Pluto
- (b) Mars
- (c) Venus
- (d) Jupiter

74. Who among the following was the first to measure the circumference of the Earth?

- (a) Eratosthenes
- (b) Newton
- (c) Aryabhata
- (d) Einstein

75. The National Emblem of India, Lion Capital, has been taken from:

- (a) the temples of Konark
- (b) Ashoka's Pillar at Sarnath
- (c) Sanchi Stupa at Ranchi
- (d) Mundaka Upanishad

76. On which river is Surat situated?

- (a) Narbada

- (b) Tapti ✓
- (c) Mahanadi
- (d) Krishna

EVERYDAY SCIENCE

77. Electric current is generated by:
- (a) diode
 - (b) transistor
 - (c) dynamo ✓
 - (d) Motor
78. Transformers are used to:
- (a) convert AC to DC
 - (b) convert DC to AC
 - (c) step up DC voltage
 - (d) step up or step down AC voltage ✓
79. The sky is blue because
- (a) there is more blue light in the sunlight
 - (b) of scattering of sunlight by air molecules in the atmosphere
 - (c) of scattering of sunlight by dust particles in the atmosphere
 - (d) other colours are absorbed by heavenly bodies ✓
80. In order that a hydrometer may float vertically in water, its centre of gravity should be:
- (a) raised
 - (b) lowered ✓
 - (c) displaced sideways
 - (d) undisturbed
81. A particle in uniform circular motion has:
- (a) no acceleration
 - (b) constant acceleration
 - (c) increasing acceleration
 - (d) decreasing acceleration ✓
82. Under which of the following conditions is a gas most soluble in a liquid?
- (a) high temperature and high pressure
 - (b) low temperature and low pressure
 - (c) high temperature and low pressure
 - (d) low temperature and high pressure ✓
83. Of the following, which is the purest form of Iron?
- (a) wrought iron ✓
 - (b) crude iron
 - (c) pig iron
 - (d) steel
84. Honey bees get their food from:
- (a) buds
 - (b) flowers
 - (c) fruits
 - (d) seeds ✓
85. Dispersal of seeds takes place through:
- (a) man ✓

- (b) birds
 - (c) cattle
 - (d) all of the above
86. A human whose gall bladder is removed may at first have difficulty in:
- (a) carbohydrate digestion
 - (b) fat emulsification
 - (c) protein oxidation
 - (d) starch assimilation ✓
87. Which hormone stimulates the pancreas to produce pancreatic juice?
- (a) adrenin
 - (b) insulin
 - (c) ACTH
 - (d) secretin ✓
88. The bending of stems toward light is due to uneven growth of cells caused by:
- (a) enzymes
 - (b) auxins
 - (c) gibberellic acid
 - (d) stored proteins ✓
89. As blood passes through lungs, gases are exchanged through blood vessels called:
- (a) capillaries
 - (b) arteries
 - (c) arterioles
 - (d) veins ✓
90. Respiration in earth worms is directly dependent upon large surface areas of:
- (a) lung
 - (b) moist skin ✓
 - (c) tracheae
 - (d) gills
91. Of the following rock types, which one is likely to yield the most abundant supply of ground water?
- (a) granite
 - (b) basalt
 - (c) sandstone ✓
 - (d) limestone
92. The mechanical breaking down of rocks into smaller fragments is known as:
- (a) decomposition
 - (b) oxidation
 - (c) carbonation
 - (d) disintegration ✓
93. A sedimentary rock which is made from stratified mud is:
- (a) sandstone
 - (b) shale ✓
 - (c) conglomerate
 - (d) granite
94. The sun is the centre of:
- (a) all the stars
 - (b) the solar system ✓
 - (c) the sky
 - (d) the Milky Way
95. As excited hydrogen atoms return to the ground state, they emit:
- (a) electrons
 - (b) protons

- (c) photons
 - (d) neutrons ✓
96. Which wave requires a medium for transmission?
- (a) light
 - (b) infra-red
 - (c) radio
 - (d) sound ✓
97. If the mass of an object were doubled, its acceleration due to gravity would be:
- (a) halved
 - (b) doubled
 - (c) unchanged ✓
 - (d) quadrupled
98. The rate at which a force does work may be measured in:
- (a) watts
 - (b) newtons
 - (c) joules
 - (d) kilocalories ✓
99. Which element is present in all common fuels?
- (a) carbon
 - (b) nitrogen
 - (c) oxygen
 - (d) phosphorus ✓
100. Wood heated in an enclosed container will produce.
- (a) coal
 - (b) charcoal
 - (c) coke
 - (d) ash ✓
101. Which metal is attracted by a magnet?
- (a) copper
 - (b) lead
 - (c) cobalt
 - (d) aluminium ✓
102. Which of the following will not burn?
- (a) carbon tetrachloride ✓
 - (b) gasoline
 - (c) kerosene
 - (d) turpentine
103. Mushrooms reproduce by means of:
- (a) seeds
 - (b) spores
 - (c) cuttings
 - (d) bulbs ✓
104. Which of these plants has flowers that are usually pollinated by bees?
- (a) clover ✓
 - (b) corn
 - (c) fern
 - (d) rye
105. A mouse is classified as:
- (a) an amphibian
 - (b) a mammal ✓
 - (c) a crustacean
 - (d) a reptile
106. A balanced aquarium should contain water, animals, and:
- (a) pebbles
 - (b) shells ✓

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

- (c) coloured rocks
(d) green plants
107. In which organ of the man, the voluntary muscles are present?
(a) in heart
(b) in forearm
(c) in the wall of blood vessels
(d) in lower jaw
108. Which organ is the largest in size in the human body?
(a) heart
(b) liver
(c) spleen
(d) pancreas
109. An adult person respire about:
(a) 16 times/minute
(b) 25 times/minute
(c) 35 times/minute
(d) 45 times/minute
110. Spirometer is used to measure the:
(a) temperature
(b) depth of the sea
(c) vital capacity of the lungs
(d) beat-rate of the heart
111. The heart is enclosed in a double walled sac, called:
(a) peritonium
(b) pericardium
(c) cranium
(d) diaphragm
112. Limestone caves were formed because the ground water contained dissolved:
(a) oxygen
(b) chlorine
(c) carbon dioxide
(d) iron oxide
113. Which rock is formed by the cooling of molten rock?
(a) granite
(b) limestone
(c) sandstone
(d) shale
114. Which rock results directly from the cementing together of rock particles?
(a) sandstone
(b) slate
(c) granite
(d) shale
115. A "shooting star" that flashes across the night sky is really a:
(a) meteor
(b) comet
(c) falling planet
(d) falling star
116. Which of the following constituents is responsible for the composition of bones?
(a) Calcium Phosphate
(b) Calcium Sulphate
(c) Calcium Carbonate
(d) Calcium Chloride
117. Which of the following alloys melts at the lowest temperature?

- (a) solder
(b) brass
(c) bronze
(d) german silver
118. To purify gold, it should be treated with:
(a) conc. hydrochloric acid
(b) conc. sulphuric acid
(c) conc. nitric acid
(d) aqua regia
119. Which of the following liquids is the best conductor of heat?
(a) water
(b) mercury
(c) honey
(d) glycerine
120. For good health, the relative humidity of a room should be about:
(a) 40%
(b) 50%
(c) 60%
(d) 100%
121. Which of the following statements about fuse wire is correct?
(a) it is made of copper
(b) it has high melting point
(c) it has low melting point
(d) it is very costly
122. Light of which colour has the longest wave-length?
(a) green
(b) yellow
(c) blue
(d) red
123. Which of the following is used to detect the presence of charge on a given body?
(a) microscope
(b) electroscope
(c) galvanoscope
(d) spectroscope
124. Which of the following words should be used to describe the action of bile on fats?
(a) digestion
(b) emulsification
(c) neutralisation
(d) dissolution
125. Which of the following glands act both as endocrine and exocrine gland?
(a) pancreas
(b) thyroid
(c) pituitary
(d) adrenal
126. Ploughing (drainage) is done to improve:
(a) soil fertility
(b) soil structure
(c) soil aeration
(d) soil texture
127. Which of the following waves of light is not utilised in photosynthesis?
(a) blue
(b) green
(c) yellow

- (d) red
128. Blood minus all cells and fibrin is called:
(a) serum
(b) corpuscle
(c) platelet
(d) plasma
129. Red blood corpuscles survive for:
(a) 117 days
(b) 171 days
(c) 217 days
(d) 127 days
130. A child at the age of five normally has:
(a) 16 teeth
(b) 18 teeth
(c) 20 teeth
(d) 24 teeth

ANSWERS

HISTORY

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| 1. (d) | 2. (c) | |
| 3. (d) (Francisco-de-Almeida) | | |
| 4. (a) | 5. (a) | 6. (a) |
| 7. (a) | 8. (b) | 9. (c) |
| 10. (b) | 11. (c) | 12. (a) |
| 13. (a) | 14. (b) | 15. (d) |
| 16. (b) | 17. (b) | 18. (a) |
| 19. (b) | 20. (a) | 21. (b) |
| 22. (c) | 23. (c) | 24. (d) |
| 25. (d) (Euphrates and Tigris) | | |
| 26. (a) | 27. (b) | 28. (b) |
| 29. (c) (First Battle of Panipat) | | |
| 30. (a) | 31. (c) | 32. (c) |
| 33. (c) | 34. (c) | 35. (a) |
| 36. (b) | 37. (b) | |
| 38. (c) (1946) | | 39. (c) |
| 40. (d) | 41. (c) | 42. (b) |
| 43. (d) | 44. (c) | 45. (c) |
| 46. (c) | 47. (d) | 48. (b) |
| 49. (a) | 50. (e) | 51. (b) |

GEOGRAPHY

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| 52. (a) | 53. (b) | 54. (a) |
| 55. (c) | 56. (d) | |
| 57. (c) (Venus) | | 58. (d) |
| 59. (d) & (e) | | 60. (b) |
| 61. (b) | 62. (c) | 63. (a) |
| 64. (a) | 65. (d) | 66. (a) |
| 67. (a) | 68. (a) | 69. (a) |
| 70. (a) | 71. (d) | 72. (a) |
| 73. (c) | 74. (a) | 75. (b) |
| 76. (b) | | |

EVERYDAY SCIENCE

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 77. (c) | 78. (d) | 79. (b) |
| 80. (b) | 81. (b) | 82. (d) |
| 83. (a) | 84. (b) | 85. (d) |
| 86. (b) | 87. (d) | 88. (b) |
| 89. (a) | 90. (b) | 91. (c) |
| 92. (d) | 93. (b) | 94. (b) |
| 95. (c) | 96. (d) | 97. (c) |
| 98. (a) | 99. (a) | 100. (b) |
| 101. (c) | 102. (a) | 103. (b) |
| 104. (a) | 105. (b) | 106. (d) |
| 107. (c) | 108. (b) | 109. (a) |
| 110. (c) | 111. (b) | 112. (c) |
| 113. (a) | 114. (a) | 115. (a) |
| 116. (a) | 117. (a) | 118. (c) |
| 119. (b) | 120. (b) | 121. (c) |
| 122. (d) | 123. (b) | 124. (b) |
| 125. (a) | 126. (c) | 127. (b) |
| 128. (a) | 129. (d) | 130. (c) |

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

* Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are printed in **BOLD** to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions

One evening two female camels belonging to two different men strayed away from their homes. When their owners came upon them the next morning they found that both camels had given birth in the night. However there was only one calf and both the adult camels were tending it. The owners guessed that one of the calves had been taken by a wild animal. Now they faced a problem to which camel did the surviving calf belong? Each man claimed that the surviving calf was delivered by his own camel. The **dispute** was brought before Emperor Akbar who, unable to come to a decision, passed on the case to his most celebrated courtier, Birbal. Akbar knew that only Birbal would be able to solve the dispute regarding the ownership of the calf.

Indeed, Birbal solved the case in no time. He placed the baby camel on one bank of a river and the two adult camels on the opposite bank. One of the adults made a great deal of noise when she saw the calf but made no attempt to cross. The other one plunged into the fast-flowing river and fought her way across. "Would anybody but a mother have done that?" asked Birbal and strode back to the palace to the cheers of the crowd that had **assembled** there. The calf was taken away by the **rightful** owner.

1 The **rightful** owner of the calf was the one whose camel

- (1) stayed on the bank of the river
- (2) made a great deal of noise
- (3) strayed away from home at night
- (4) crossed the river to go near the calf
- (5) was taken by a wild animal

2 Which of the following is **NOT TRUE** in the context of the passage?

- (1) Birbal sought Akbar's

help in solving the dispute

- (2) The camel which made a great deal of noise did not swim across the river
- (3) One morning the men found their camels tending the same calf
- (4) Akbar failed to come to a decision regarding the ownership of the calf
- (5) Birbal placed the adult camels on one bank and the calf on the other bank of the river

3 Akbar asked Birbal to solve the dispute because

- (1) Birbal was the most celebrated courtier in Akbar's court
- (2) the men wanted the case to be referred to Birbal
- (3) Akbar could not decide who the rightful owner of the calf was
- (4) Akbar wanted to see how fast Birbal could solve the dispute
- (5) Akbar was not interested in taking a decision on his own

4 When the men found that there was only one calf, they presumed that —

- (1) the other calf had died
- (2) the other calf was stolen by someone
- (3) one of the camels did not deliver a calf
- (4) the other calf had strayed
- (5) The other calf had been killed by some animal

5 While saying "would anybody but a mother have done that?" Birbal meant that —

- (1) only the real mother of the calf would make such a great deal of noise
- (2) mother of the calf would not have allowed it to be killed
- (3) anyone except the mother of the calf would be able to cross the river
- (4) only the mother would risk her life to go near its calf

- (5) only the real mother of the calf would have plunged into the river to save its calf from drowning

6 The dispute between the two men arose because of the —

- (1) presence of only one adult camel
- (2) mistaken identity of the adult camels
- (3) presence of only one calf
- (4) killing of one of the camels
- (5) straying away of one of the camels

* Choose the word which is most **NEARLY** the SAME in meaning as the word given in **BOLD** as used in the passage:

7 **Strayed**

- (1) escaped
- (2) wandered
- (3) crossed
- (4) walked
- (5) moved

8 **Dispute**

- (1) fight
- (2) claim
- (3) anger
- (4) disagreement
- (5) enmity

* Choose the word which is most **OPPOSITE** in meaning of the word given in **BOLD** as used in the passage:

9 **rightful**

- (1) justified
- (2) indecent
- (3) real
- (4) unimportant
- (5) unlawful

10 **assembled**

- (1) crowded
- (2) diffused
- (3) removed
- (4) dispersed
- (5) eliminated

* Read each sentence to find out whether there is any **grammatical** or **idiomatic** error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. The number of that part is the answer. If there is no error, the answer is '5', i.e. No error. (Ignore the errors of punctuation, if any).

11 The mother advised (1) her daughter to not (2) to go out with (3) her friends at night (4) No error (5)

12 It was, in fact, Mala's (1) husband who forced (2) her to resign (3) her teaching job (4) No error (5)

13 One of Sanjay's ambitions (1)

in life were to (2) visit all the historic (3) places in the country (4). No error (5).

14. Police did succeeded (1) in recovering the (2) idols stolen from the temple (3) after some days (4). No error (5).

15. John thinks that (1) his pet dog is (2) superior than his (3) neighbour's pet dog (4). No error (5).

16. No sooner did the Manager (1) enter the office where (2) the employees stopped (3) talking and started working (4). No error (5).

17. Had he been careful (1) while crossing the road, (2) he would not have (3) met with the accident (4). No error (5).

18. The Government finally (1) accepted some of the (2) suggestions of the workers' union (3) as regards to the matter (4). No error (5).

19. This idol is (1) as heavy that (2) even four men (3) cannot lift it (4). No error (5).

20. Neither Deepa nor her (1) sister Deepa were (2) seen by me during (3) yesterday's function in the college (4). No error (5).

* Pick out the most effective word from the given words to fill in the blank to make the sentence meaningfully complete.

21. I was speaking to him on phone when the line cut.

- (1) got (2) gets
- (3) gotten (4) getting
- (5) get

22. I do not of his conduct although he is my own brother.

- (1) tolerate (2) agree
- (3) excuse (4) approve
- (5) decide

23. Rakesh promised me that he would be a letter after reaching home.

- (1) wrote (2) written
- (3) write (4) writing
- (5) writer

24. The judge found him guilty and was sentenced death.

- (1) to (2) upon
- (3) for (4) till
- (5) as

25. Satish is the strongest all the boys in our school.

- (1) on (2) between
- (3) of (4) to
- (5) before

26. The teacher asked Priya to go home when she started of stomach pain.

- (1) complaining

- (2) knowing
- (3) blaming
- (4) feeling
- (5) developing

27. Anuradha's voice is sweet as Lata's

- (1) more (2) far
- (3) as (4) very
- (5) so

28. The child has been sick very often for the last three months.

- (1) fell (2) falling
- (3) falls (4) fallen
- (5) fall

29. The surgeon advised the patient to an operation.

- (1) undergo
- (2) underpass
- (3) underset
- (4) underlie
- (5) undertake

30. It was in consultation the workers' union that the Management arrived at this decision.

- (1) over (2) to
- (3) about (4) by
- (5) with

* In each sentence below, one word has been printed in BOLD. Below the sentence, five words are suggested, one of which can replace the word printed in BOLD without changing the meaning of the sentence. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

31. His achievements in field of Education are creditable

- (1) desirable
- (2) infinite
- (3) praiseworthy
- (4) believable
- (5) supreme

32. The spectators were sensible enough to remain silent during the cultural programme.

- (1) reasonable
- (2) determined
- (3) peaceful
- (4) attentive
- (5) capable

33. Some of the books in this library are invaluable.

- (1) rare (2) cheap
- (3) invalid
- (4) insignificant
- (5) priceless

34. He refused to reveal the contents of his bag to the customs officers.

- (1) discuss (2) suppress
- (3) check (4) accept
- (5) show

35. All the students were in-

formed about the commencement of the examination.

- (1) continuation
- (2) postponement
- (3) beginning
- (4) cancellation
- (5) end

* Rearrange the following five sentences A, B, C, D and E in proper sequence so as to make a meaningful paragraph, then answer the questions given below them.

(A) I called out his name.

(B) It was indeed my old friend.

(C) He looked around but did not see me.

(D) I stopped to have a closer look at the person.

(E) I saw a familiar face in the crowd.

36. Which of the sentences should come SECOND in the paragraph?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
- (4) D (5) E

37. Which of the sentences should come THIRD in the paragraph?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
- (4) D (5) E

38. Which of the sentences should come FOURTH in the paragraph?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
- (4) D (5) E

39. Which of the sentences should come LAST in the paragraph?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
- (4) D (5) F

40. Which of the sentences should come FIRST in the paragraph?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
- (4) D (5) E

ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (4) | 2. (1) | 3. (1) | 4. (5) |
| 5. (5) | 6. (3) | 7. (2) | 8. (4) |
| 9. (5) | 10. (4) | | |
| 11. (2) 'her daughter not' | | | 12. (5) |
| 13. (2) 'in life was to' | | | |
| 14. (1) 'police did succeed' or 'police succeeded' | | | |
| 15. (3) 'superior to his' | | | |
| 16. (2) 'enter the office than' | | | |
| 17. (5) | | | |
| 18. (4) 'as regards the matter' | | | |
| 19. (2) 'so heavy that' | | | |
| 20. (2) 'sister Deepa was' | | | |
| 21. (1) | 22. (4) | 23. (4) | 24. (1) |
| 25. (3) | 26. (1) | 27. (3) | 28. (2) |
| 29. (1) | 30. (5) | 31. (3) | 32. (1) |
| 33. (5) | 34. (5) | 35. (3) | 36. (4) |
| 37. (2) | 38. (1) | 39. (3) | 40. (5) |

TEST OF REASONING—I

The questions given below were set in the Income tax/Excise Inspectors examination held on the 22nd December, 1991

We are grateful to Saroshini Ranjan Rajan and Ajay Kumar Singh of Patna and numerous of our other esteemed readers who sent these questions to us

Directions (Questions 1 to 5)

In each of the following questions there is some relationship between the two groups of letters to the left of the sign () The same relationship obtains between the group to the right of the sign (:) and one of the four alternative letter groups under it. This alternative is your answer. Mark it on the answer sheet as instructed.

- 1 BAYZ CDXW FEUV ?
(a) HGST (b) GHTS
(c) FLYU (d) BAYZ
- 2 IMXK UIYJ WQFZ ?
(a) XPLA (b) XCPA
(c) XPGY (d) XGPY
- 3 ASTN ZTSO MSUB ?
(a) ITTC (b) LRRC
(c) LTTA (d) NTVC
- 4 GOAI HPBK POST ?
(a) TSOP (b) QPTS
(c) STPO (d) QPST
- 5 HHUV HJQP LLQQ ?
(a) IKOP (b) LKJI
(c) IMNO (d) LNMK

Directions (Questions 6 to 15)

In each of the following questions a pair of words has been given. In the answer-sheet mark

- (a) if one is the product of the other
- (b) if one is the cause of the other
- (c) if one is the opposite of the other
- (d) if one belongs to the other
- 6 Root—plant
- 7 Evaporation—heat
- 8 Cow—milk
- 9 Heavy—light
- 10 Malaria—mosquito
- 11 Page—book
- 12 Deep—shallow
- 13 Movement—force
- 14 Petal—flower
- 15 Steam—water

16 In a photograph Shyam is to the left of Madan, Mary is to the right of George, Karim is in between Shyam and Mary Who is at the corner?

- (a) Shyam (b) Mary
(c) George (d) Karim

17 Four points A, B, C and D in that order are on a line in a manner that the distance between C and D is twice that between B and C and four times that between A and B. If the distance from A to D be 14 cm, what is the distance between B and C?

- (a) 2 cm (b) 4 cm
(c) 6 cm (d) 8 cm

18 If '1+2+3' stands for 'These are boys', '1+3+4' stands for 'Boys are naughty' and '1+4+5' stands for 'Naughty boys sing', what stands for 'naughty'?

- (a) 1 (b) 3
(c) 4 (d) 5

19 A goes 100 m to the south and then 100 m to the east to reach B's house. From there they together go to the market which is to the north-east of B's house. If the market be to the east of A's house, how far is it from his house?

- (a) 100 m (b) 200 m
(c) 300 m (d) 400 m

20 The letters A to Z of the alphabet are given consecutive numerical values in a descending order and the sum of the numerical values of the letters of the word SORE is 67. What is the sum of the numerical values of the letters in the word GATE?

- (a) 85 (b) 89
(c) 91 (d) 97

21 A team of six is to be selected from amongst 5 boys X, Y, Z, T, W and four girls P, Q, R and S in such a way that X and Y go together and T and W are not to be put with any girl while Z cannot go with Y. The possible team is

- (a) X, Y, P, Q, R, S (b) X, Y, Z, P, Q, R
(c) X, Y, Z, T, W, P (d) Z, T, W, P, Q, R

22 In a certain code BROAD is written as ASNBC, how is PLUGH written in that code?

- (a) OMVHI (b) QMTFG
(c) OMTHG (d) QKVFI

23 In a caravan there are some camels, some goats, some hens and some pigeons alongwith 50 men, women and children. The number of hens is three times that of pigeons and that of camels four more than that of goats. If

the ratio of animals and birds be 2 : 5 and there be 226 legs more than the heads, how many camels and hens are there in the caravan?

- (a) 14, 18 (b) 18, 60
(c) 20, 60 (d) 20, 18

24. Sita, Sudha and Fatima play a game of cards. Sita says to Sudha, "If you give me 10 cards, I shall have twice as many as Fatima's and you will have three less than she has. If Fatima gives me four cards, I shall have as many as you have." How many cards does Fatima have?

- (a) 13 (b) 14
(c) 16 (d) 19

25. The difference between the ages of Karim and Saleem is the same as between that of Saleem and Sohan. Edward is 4 yrs older than Saleem and 3 yrs older than Karim. If Saleem is 14 yrs, how old is Sohan?

- (a) 12 years (b) 13 years
(c) 14 years (d) 18 years

Directions: (Questions 26 to 30)

In an election the total number of eligible voters was 1,45,300. Five of the contestants belonged to political parties while three were independents. Seventy per cent of the voters exercised their franchise. Of the total votes polled 470 were declared invalid. Now answer the following questions:

26. What is the minimum number of votes required to be polled by a candidate in order to have a chance of being elected?

- (a) 12655 (b) 12656
(c) 12717 (d) 18104

27. If 24% of the eligible voters cast their votes in favour of the independent candidates and the votes cast in their favour were in the ratio 3 : 2 : 1, how many votes were cast in favour of the most popular independent candidate?

- (a) 17436 (b) 34872
(c) 36208 (d) 36325

28. What is the minimum number of votes which a candidate were to poll in order to be sure of his victory?

- (a) 72,651 (b) 72,181
(c) 51,091 (d) 50,621

29. Of the valid votes if 40% were cast in favour of the winning candidate and his nearest rival lost by 4318 votes, then how many valid votes were polled by the later?

- (a) 36178 (b) 36266
(c) 36648 (d) 36736

30. Of the total votes cast if 20% were polled by independent candidates, then how many votes were polled by the candidates from the political parties?

- (a) 20342 (b) 36208
(c) 70260 (d) 81368

Directions: (Questions 31 to 40)

In each of the following questions a word has been given followed by four alternatives one of which is its

mirror image. This image is your answer. Mark it on the answer sheet as instructed.

31 REQUEST

- (A) REQTEZ
(B) REQETZ
(C) REQUETZ
(D) REQUTZ

32 RACE

- (A) EACR
(B) EACZ
(C) ECAR
(D) ECAR

33 QUIRE

- (A) QUIRE
(B) QUIRE
(C) QUIRE
(D) QUIRE

34 BONE

- (A) BONE
(B) BONE
(C) BONE
(D) BONE

35 PEG

- (A) PEG
(B) PEG
(C) PEG
(D) PEG

36 SIZE

- (A) SIZE
(B) SIZE
(C) SIZE
(D) SIZE

37 RAY

- (A) RAY
(B) RAY
(C) RAY
(D) RAY

38 SAY

- (A) SAY
(B) SAY
(C) SAY
(D) SAY

39 WAX

- (A) WAX
(B) WAX
(C) WAX
(D) WAX

40 REST

- (A) REST
(B) REST
(C) REST
(D) REST

Directions: (Questions 41 to 50)

In each of the following number series one term is wrong. It is given as one of the four alternatives under it. Find this term in each question and mark your answer on the answer-sheet.

41. 5, 9, 15, 23, 34, 45, 59

- (a) 23 (b) 34
(c) 45 (d) 59

42. 6, 12, 24, 14, 24, 48, 24, 48, 96

- (a) 6 (b) 12
(c) 24 (d) 14

43. 12, 23, 37, 49, 94, 73, 34, 21

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (a) 94 | (b) 73 |
| (c) 34 | (d) 21 |
44. 336, 210, 120, 62, 24, 6, 0
- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (a) 62 | (b) 24 |
| (c) 6 | (d) 0 |
45. 1, 2, 9, 37, 65, 126, 217
- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (a) 2 | (b) 9 |
| (c) 37 | (d) 65 |
46. 0, 2, 6, 14, 20, 30, 42
- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (a) 14 | (b) 20 |
| (c) 30 | (d) 42 |
47. 529, 361, 289, 171, 121, 49
- | | |
|---------|---------|
| (a) 361 | (b) 289 |
| (c) 171 | (d) 121 |
48. 97, 86, 73, 58, 45, 36
- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (a) 73 | (b) 58 |
| (c) 45 | (d) 36 |
49. 2, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14
- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (a) 7 | (b) 10 |
| (c) 12 | (d) 14 |
50. 0, 3, 8, 15, 27, 35, 48
- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (a) 15 | (b) 27 |
| (c) 35 | (d) 48 |

Directions: (Questions 51 to 55)

In the following questions some symbols have been used to stand for the mathematical operation mentioned against each:

- for plus
- for minus
- φ for into
- δ for divided by
- Δ for greater than
- for less than
- for equal to
- ▲ for not equal to

Now answer the following questions:

51. If $x \Delta y \square z$, $y \Delta z$ then
- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) $x \Delta 2y$ | (b) $x \Delta 2z$ |
| (c) $x \blacksquare 2y$ | (d) $x \blacksquare 2z$ |
52. If $x \phi y \bullet z^2$, $x \delta y \Delta z$ then
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) $x \blacktriangle z$ | (b) $x^2 \bullet z^3$ |
| (c) $x^2 \Delta z^3$ | (d) $x \bullet z$ |
53. If $2x \Delta 3y$, $2y \bullet z$, then
- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) $x \blacksquare z$ | (b) $4x \blacksquare 3z$ |
| (c) $x \Delta z$ | (d) $4x \Delta 3z$ |
54. If $x \bullet 2z$, $2y \blacktriangle 3z$ then
- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) $3x \Delta 4y$ | (b) $x \blacksquare 2y$ |
| (c) $3x \blacktriangle 4y$ | (d) $3x \bullet 4y$ |
55. If $2xz \blacksquare y^2$, $x^2 \blacksquare 2yz$ then

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| (a) $x \blacktriangle y$ | (b) $x \bullet y$ |
| (c) $y \blacktriangle z$ | (d) $y \bullet z$ |

Directions: (Questions 56 to 60)

A cube is coloured red on four faces and green on two opposite faces. It is then cut into 64 smaller cubes. Now answer the following questions:

56. How many cubes are coloured red on at least one face?

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (a) 8 | (b) 16 |
| (c) 40 | (d) 48 |

57. How many cubes are coloured on one face only and that too with red colour?

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (a) 8 | (b) 16 |
| (c) 24 | (d) 32 |

58. How many cubes have a green face?

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (a) 8 | (b) 16 |
| (c) 24 | (d) 32 |

59. How many cubes are coloured red on three faces each?

- | | |
|-------|--------|
| (a) 0 | (b) 4 |
| (c) 8 | (d) 16 |

60. How many cubes are coloured only on one face and that too with green colour?

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (a) 8 | (b) 16 |
| (c) 20 | (d) 24 |

Directions: (Questions 61 to 70)

In each of the following questions a lead word has been given followed by four alternatives. One of these alternatives has some relationship with the lead word which is different from the one which the other three have with this lead word. The one with a different relationship is your answer. Find this word in each case and mark your answer on the answer-sheet as instructed.

61. REDUCTION

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| (a) Noise | (b) Induce |
| (c) Caution | (d) Action |

62. TERMINATE

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) Mineral | (b) Minaret |
| (c) Nature | (d) Temper |

63. HOUSEHOLDER

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (a) Source | (b) Erode |
| (c) Blouse | (d) Leader |

64. OBLIGATION

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| (a) Ration | (b) Action |
| (c) Motion | (d) Litigation |

65. SYMPATHY

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| (a) Apathy | (b) Mate |
| (c) Yatch | (d) Symptom |

66. SOLITARY

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| (a) Soal | (b) Art |
|----------|---------|

- (c) Salt (d) Tyre
67. MARATHON (a) Through (b) Normal (c) Horns (d) Thema
68. PRUDENT (a) Proud (b) Truth (c) Pride (d) Tender
69. TREMENDOUS (a) Remember (b) Tender (c) Oust (d) Mender
70. NEUTRALISE (a) Utilise (b) Trauma (c) Utility (d) Seam

Directions: (Questions 71 to 80)

In each of the following letter sequences some letters have been left out and they are given in that order as one of the four alternatives under it. Find the correct alternative in each case and mark your answer on the answer-sheet as instructed.

71. a-bbaa-baa-baab-aab
(a) abab (b) baba (c) abbb (d) bbaa
72. ab-baabc-aabcb-abcb-
(a) bcaa (b) cbab (c) abca (d) aacb
73. a-bba-b-aab-a-bbaab
(a) aabba (b) bbaba (c) aaaab (d) ababa
74. -aab-caa-bbcaa-b-caa
(a) abaab (b) cabab (c) bccaa (d) baaba
75. ab-aabb-caa-bb-cccaaaa-
(a) cacca (b) ccabb (c) abccb (d) abacc
76. aa-bc-aab-ccaa-bcc-ab
(a) bcbba (b) abcca (c) aacbc (d) bacab
77. ab-cba-bcc-aabccb-abc-ba
(a) caaaa (b) acbaa (c) cabac (d) cbaac
78. a-ba-cbaac-aa-ba
(a) ccbb (b) cab (c) ccb (d) bbcc
79. -cb-aca-bba-ac-bacac
(a) bcbca (b) cbaca (c) ababa (d) abccb
80. aa-aaa-aaaa-aaaa-b
(a) baaa (b) bbaa (c) bbbb (d) bbba

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (c) | 3. (a) | 4. (b) |
| 5. (d) | 6. (d) | 7. (b) | 8. (a) |
| 9. (c) | 10. (b) | 11. (d) | 12. (c) |
| 13. (b) | 14. (d) | 15. (a) | |
| 16. (c) L ↔ R. George : Mary : Karim : Shyam : Madan | | | |
| 17. (b) A . . . C . . . D 18. (c) | | | |

19. (h) A . . . MARKET

20. (c) The values are
A B C D E F X Y Z
30 29 28 27 26 25 7 6 5
21. (a) 22. (c)
23. (b) Hu. beings 50, hens 60; pigeons 20; camels 18; goats 14;
No. of legs 100; 120; 40; 72; 56
Legs 388-heads 162 = 226 legs more
24. (a) Sita—16; Sudha—20; Fatima—13.
25. (b) Karim—15; Edward—18; Salim—14; Sohan—13
26. (b) Valid votes 101240+candidates 8 = 12655+1 (to win)
27. (a) 24% of 1,45,300 = 34872; votes cast 17436 : 11624 : 5812.
28. (d) Valid votes 101240+2 = 50620+1.
29. (a) 40% of 101240 = 40496-4318.
30. (d) 20% of 101710 = 20342. 101710-20342.
31. (B) 32 (A) 33 (D) 34. (C)
35. (B) 36 (C) 37. (B) 38. (A)
39. (C) 40 (D)
41. (b) The numbers have difference of 4, 6; 8; 10; 12 ; 34 should be 33.
42. (d) Make sets of 3. The series is x, 2x, 4x, 14 should be 12.
43. (c) Digits of numbers are reversed; 34 should be 32.
44. (a) The numbers are 7^3-7 , 6^3-6 , 5^3-5 , 4^3-4 , 3^3-3 ... 62 should be 60
45. (c) The numbers are 0^3+1 ; 1^3+1 ; 2^3+1 ; 3^3+1 ; 4^3+1 ; 5^3+1 ... The number should have been 28 instead of 37.
46. (a) The difference in numbers is 2, 4, 6, 8, 14 should be 12.
47. (c) All the others are squares of numbers.
48. (d) The difference in numbers is 11, 13, 15, 13, 11.
49. (d) The difference in numbers is 3, 2, 3, 2, 3...
50. (b) The difference in numbers is 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13.... ; 27 should be 24.
51. (b) 52 (c) 53. (d) 54. (c)
55. (a) 56. (d) 57. (b) 58. (d)
59. (a) 60. (a)
61. (b) It is the only word with all the letters from the lead word. Others have one letter of their own.
62. (b) Same as above.
63. (b) Same as above.
64. (d) Other words have one outsider, this one has two.
65. (d) Same as question no 64.
66. (d) It is the only one that has a letter which is not there in the lead word.
67. (a) Same as 61, 62 and 63
68. (b) Same as 61
69. (a) The word has three letters other than the ones used in the lead word.
70. (b) Same as 61
71. (c) The series is, aabb/aabb/aabb/...
72. (b) The series is, abcb/abcb/abcb/...
73. (a) The series is, aabb/aabb/aabb/...
74. (a) The arrangement is, aaa/bbcaaa/bbcaaa.
75. (b) The arrangement abc/aabbcc/aaabbbccc/aaaa
76. (a) The arrangement is aabbcc/aabbcc/aabbcc.
77. (c) The arrangement is abccba/abccba/abccba ..
78. (b) The arrangement is acba/acba/acba...
79. (d) The series is acbb/acacbb/acacbb/...
80. (d) The arrangement is aab/aaab/aaaab/aaaab

TEST OF REASONING—II

SYLLOGISM

TYPE I

In questions given below, Assumption 'A' is followed by Reasons RI and RII. Apply the Reasons to the Assumption and tick-mark (✓) your answers as under:

- (a) Only RI is the reason for A
- (b) Only RII is the reason for A.
- (c) Both RI and RII are reasons for A
- (d) Either RI or RII is the reason for A
- (e) Neither RI nor RII is the reason for A.

1. A. Some of the extremely rich persons do not clear their income-tax dues in time.

RI. They are too busy with their business affairs to bother about trivial things like income-tax.

RII. As they invest all their money in different projects they have no cash in hand.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

2. A. Parties these days are usually arranged in big hotels.

RI. The hotel staff takes care of everything, from decoration and food-stuff to the most minute details.

RII. It is a question of fashion, prestige and competition for the hosts.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

3. A. Some books create a lot of legal trouble and antagonism for their writer.

RI. They write against the existing government to expose its black face.

RII. The books are a challenge to religion, morals and social values.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

4. A. Palaces, that have been converted into grand hotels are ranged above five-star hotels.

RI. Five star hotels lack sufficient comforts.

RII. The palace hotels have an irresistible fascination, grandeur and the antique atmosphere of their own that no modern structure could provide.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

5. A. The art of blue pottery in Jaipur follows exactly the same pattern as the blue pottery of Afghanistan and Persia.

RI. The old rulers of Jaipur brought some artists from Afghanistan and Persia to instruct the local artists.

RII. Some of the local artists were sent there to learn the technique.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

6. A. Loneliness, depression, boredom and anger often lead a person to drink heavily.

RI. Such persons lack will-power and strength within to fight these emotional stresses.

RII. Only alcoholic drugs can ease out the pain and tensions mentioned above.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

7. A. Indians, who quit their secure jobs and go over to Gulf countries often return penniless.

RI. They know nothing about bogus agencies, who, after extracting money from them and sending them to Gulf countries, vanish in thin air.

RII. They are declared unfit when they reach there.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

8. A. Life for housewives with jobs is one mad rush.

RI. She does not want to be a negligent housewife.

RII. She does not want to be labelled as an apathetic employee.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

9. The historians are convinced that Mr Gorbachov will have a distinct place in history.

RI. He brought freedom of thought and democracy to his people.

RII. He tried his best to materialize his dream of international peace and amity.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

10. Small scale industries are more beneficial for our country than gigantic projects.

RI. We need foreign help for establishing big projects.

RII. The entrepreneur earns much more in small scale industries.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE II

In questions given below, a situation has been explained in a few statements followed by a conclusion. You have to say whether the conclusion

- (a) necessarily follows from the statements
- (b) is only a long drawn one
- (c) definitely does not follow
- (d) is doubtful, as the data provided is inadequate

Note Your answers should only be in the light of the statements given

Statements

- 11 1 Most of the Institutions provide fellowships for its researchers
- 2 Such fellowships are only provided to very bright students
- 3 Mahesh, a research student is getting fellowship from an Institution

Conclusion Mahesh is a very intelligent student

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements

- 12 1 In case of sudden death, the nominee of the deceased claims the due amount from Insurance Company
- 2 The Company takes very long in paying the due amount

Conclusion The Insurance people lack sympathy

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements

- 13 1 The lush green hills of Raigarh are being converted into commercial hill stations
- 2 There are already many hill stations in the Raigarh District

Conclusion The existing hill-stations are unable to cope with the increasing crowd of tourists

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements

- 14 1 Dramas are very popular in Gujarat and Maharashtra
- 2 In Delhi, they do not attract that much crowd

Conclusion The performers of Delhi lack the perfection of Gujarati and Marathi artists

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements

- 15 1 Meghalaya has made tremendous progress since its inception as a State two decades back
- 2 It is also known as 'The Scotland of the East'

Conclusion Scotland has also made progress during the last twenty years only

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements

- 16 1 International authorities want to settle wars at the negotiating table
- 2 The people of the concerning countries resent international involvement

Conclusion They prefer to settle down their disputes in the battlefield

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements

- 17 1 Iraq is believed to have atomic weapons
- 2 The technology of producing N-weapons originated in the U S A

Conclusion Iraq learnt this art from the U S A

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

TYPE III

In making decisions about important questions, it is desirable to be able to distinguish between strong arguments and weak arguments so far as they are concerned with the question. Weak arguments may not be directly related to the question, may be of minor importance or may be related to some trivial aspect of the question. Each question given below is followed by two arguments numbered I and II. You have to decide which of the arguments is strong and which is 'weak'. Then decide which of the answers given below and numbered (a) (b) (c), (d) and (e) is the correct answer.

- (a) Only I is strong
- (b) Only II is strong
- (c) Both I and II are strong
- (d) Either I or II is strong
- (e) Neither I nor II is strong

18 Will the Islamic fundamentalists ever provide equal rights to their women?

- I Yes, they can't remain unaffected by the international stream of equal rights
- II No, they refuse to accept any change in their age-old set-up

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

19 Should growth of monopoly through patenting be discouraged?

- I Yes, the prices of such products are high as there is no competitor
- II No, the product can retain its quality if it is patented

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

20 Is increase in duties on all cosmetic items with every budget a right decision?

- I Yes, cosmetics are luxury items
- II No, the items are used by the hard pressed lower and middle class as well and weigh heavy on their pockets

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

21 Does smoking really cause cancer?

- I Yes, the doctors say so
- II No, every smoker does not suffer from cancer

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

22 Is staying off bad habits easy?

- I Yes, one just needs a little will-power
- II No, the craving to return to them and depressing circumstances often prove too strong

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

23 Does success change a person?

- I Yes, nothing succeeds like success, hence it goes

directly to one's head

- II No the basic nature of a person remains the same

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

24 Is money allocated for the development of the tribals put to its best use?

- I Yes there are so many developmental projects for the benefit of the tribals

- II No a large share of the money goes in the pockets of corrupt officials and crooked tribal heads

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE IV

In questions given below statements I and 2 are followed by conclusions I and II. Taking the statements to be true although they may seem at variance with commonly accepted facts tick mark your answers as under

- (a) Only I follows
(b) Only II follows
(c) Both I and II follow
(d) Either I or II follows
(e) Neither I nor II follows

Statements

- 25 1 All friends are toes
2 All toes are relatives

Conclusions

- I All relatives are friends
II Some relatives are friends

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

- 26 1 Some chocolates are bitter
2 All bitter things contain vitamin A

Conclusions

- I All chocolates have vit A
II None of the chocolates has vit A

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

- 27 1 Some dogs are cats
2 Some cats are blue

Conclusions

- I Some dogs are blue
II Some cats are not dogs

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

- 28 1 All buildings are huts
2 Some huts are hospitals

Conclusions

- I None of the buildings is a hospital
II Some buildings are hospitals

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

- 29 1 All boys are either lawyers or doctors
2 All doctors are either teachers or businessmen

Conclusions

- I Some boys are teachers
II Some businessmen are boys

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

- 30 1 Some trains are cars
2 All cars are comfortable

Conclusions

- I Some trains are comfortable
II Some trains are not comfortable

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE V

The conditions for appearing at a certain final examination are as follows

The attendance required is 75%, if the student has participated in sports games or debates he/she would be given an advantage of 5%, 2% attendance is in the hands of the Principal and 5% in the hands of the Chairman of the Board but only one of the two can be given

If the student has been ill, the minimum attendance required is 60% with no other advantage. The cases of those who have 55% or less attendance will not be considered

The student must have completed 17 years of age on 1.10.91. The last limit for boys is 19 years and for girls 20 years. If a boy is handicapped the age limit is 22 and for handicapped girls it is 25 years. If a student secured 80% or more in the last examination the Secretary of the Board can relax the age limit upto one year

Every student must have the remark 'good' in his/her certificate if he/she only has the remark 'satisfactory' but secured 80% marks in the last examination the Principal can allow him/her to appear at the examination. If, however a student failed to secure at least 55% in the last examination he/she cannot take the final examination

Mark your answers

- A The student is eligible
B The student can appear on the recommendation of the Principal
C The student needs the Secretary's recommendation
D The student shall appear on the recommendation of the Chairman
E The student cannot appear at the examination

31 Abha was born on 5.2.73, her attendance is 69%, she is captain of hockey-team, she secured 58% marks in the previous examination and her conduct is good

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

32 Balraj, an excellent debator with 80% attendance was born on 3.8.72, has good conduct and secured 55% marks in the previous examination

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

33 Chandar secured 82% marks, has very good conduct. He was very ill hence his attendance is 62% only. He

was born on 2.3.72.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

34. 11.12.71 born debator Dinesh is handicapped. His conduct is good and attendance 78%. He secured 61% marks in previous examination.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

35. Evan, a good debator, secured 58% marks. Born on 8.1.74 he got 'very good' remark for conduct and his attendance is 71%.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

36. 1.1.72 born Fatima has 79% attendance and a good conduct. She scored 72% marks in the previous examination and was ill for a fortnight.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

37. Born on 2.12.66, the handicapped girl Geeta has 71% attendance. Her conduct is very good and she secured 63% marks in the previous examination.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

38. Harish has 76% attendance. Born on 25.11.73 he could only get the remark 'satisfactory' in his character certificate. He secured 85% marks in the previous examination.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

39. Born on 3.12.71, Indra scored 60% marks in the previous examination; her conduct is good, attendance is 67% and she is an excellent athlete.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

40. Jogendar was born on 2.10.71. His conduct is good, his attendance is 68%. He has submitted medical certificate for a fortnight and his percentage was 85%.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

ODD-MAN

Find the odd-man out:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 41. (a) stock | (b) hoard |
| (c) treasure | (d) invest |
| (e) save | |
| 42. (a) Ganga | (b) Narbada |
| (c) Brahamputra | (d) Mahanadi |
| (e) Godavari | |
| 43. (a) sledge | (b) rickshaw |
| (c) tonga | (d) cart |
| (e) victoria | |
| 44. (a) wings | (b) prompter |
| (c) camera | (d) curtain |
| (e) stage | |
| 45. (a) disobey | (b) revolt |
| (c) defy | (d) violate |
| (e) submit | |
| 46. (a) Confucius | (b) Mohammed |
| (c) Buddha | (d) Chanakya |

(e) Christ

47. (a) nap
(b) dose
(c) slumber
(d) drowsy
(e) hibernate
48. (a) microphone
(b) radio
(c) projector
(d) telephone
(e) transistor

ANALOGIES

The words in questions given below have certain relationship. Your task is to find out the right pair from (a), (b), (c) and (d) with similar relationship.

49. grey : green
(a) pony : yak
(b) teacher : student
(c) wheat : bread
(d) gold : ornaments
50. nebula : star
(a) space : earth
(b) stone : diamond
(c) moon : sky
(d) forest : tree
51. sprain : fracture
(a) fever : malaria
(b) excitement : frenzy
(c) devotion : blessing
(d) sleep : dream
52. spring : summer
(a) childhood : old age
(b) dusk : darkness
(c) plains : mountains
(d) river : sea
53. stationary : mobile
(a) quack : expert
(b) vehicle : bus
(c) quilt : sheet
(d) bulb : tube light
54. temple : pray
(a) exam : practicals
(b) memorial : greatmen
(c) green-room : make-up
(d) medicine : cure
55. cotton : plant
(a) tonic : health
(b) wheat : fields
(c) diamond : coal-mine
(d) silk : threads

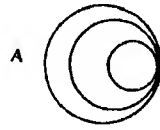
LOGICAL FIGURES

Items in questions 56 to 60 are represented by sets of figures A, B, C, D and E, each circle representing one item irrespective

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

of its size You have to match the right set of figures with the right question

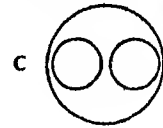
56 dinosaur tiger reptil



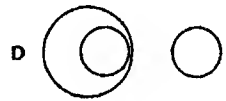
57 cone prism cube



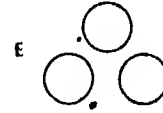
58 shelves books library



59 robin swallow bird



60 dogs cows black



NON-VERBAL SERIES

Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures Your task is to find out which of the Answer Figures from A, B, C, D and E would be the next one in the series of the Problem Figures

PROBLEM FIGURES

61					?
62					?
63					?
64					?
65					?
66					?
67					?
68					?
69					?
70					?

ANSWER FIGURES

A	B	C	D	E

Note Some of these non-verbal series questions were actually asked in the Gramin Bank Examination held in December, '91

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (e)
2. (c)
3. (d)
4. (b)
5. (d)
6. (a)
7. (a)
8. (c)
9. (c)
10. (e)
11. (a) The conclusion is in confirmation with the statements.
12. (c) There could be other formalities or reasons as well.
13. (d) The reason for the action has not been stated
14. (c) The conclusion is not convincing enough.
15. (c) There ought to be other reasons, hence not a convincing conclusion.
16. (a) The conclusion is a natural one.
17. (b) The art might have reached there indirectly, hence a hurried and long drawn conclusion.
18. (d)
19. (a)
20. (a)
21. (e)
22. (b)
23. (d)
24. (b)

The questions of Type IV are best answered by drawing diagrams of all the probabilities and then reaching the fool-proof conclusion

25. (b)



26. (e)



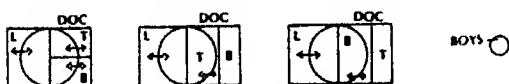
27. (e)



28. (d)



29. (e)



30. (c)



31. B. Attendance 69% + 5% (hockey)+1% by the Principal = 75%

32. E. The boy is above 19.
33. C. Above 80% hence 1 year's relaxation in age by the Secretary.
34. A. All conditions are fulfilled as the boy is handicapped.
35. A. Attendance 71%+5% (debator), other conditions are fulfilled.
36. A. All the conditions are fulfilled.
37. A. The girl is handicapped, all other conditions are fulfilled.
38. B. The conduct is satisfactory but marks 85%, hence considered by the Principal.
39. D. Attendance 67%+5% (games)+3% by the Chairman.
40. C. One year's relaxation by the Secretary as the marks obtained are 85%.
41. (d) All the others are related to collection.
42. (b) All the other rivers flow towards The Bay of Bengal.
43. (b) It is the only vehicle drawn by man.
44. (c) All the other terms are related to drama.
45. (e) All the others show a resentment.
46. (d) All the others started new religions.
47. (b) All the other terms are connected with sleep.
48. (c) It is the only visual instrument among the audio ones.
49. (a) Just as grey and green are colours, pony and yak are domestic animals, hence same category relationship.
50. (d) The relationship is that of cluster and one unit.
51. (b) The relationship is that of ordinary and higher intensity.
52. (b) One follows the other.
53. (a) The words are opposites.
54. (c) The relationship is that of place and its object.
55. (c) One is obtained from the other.
56. D. Tiger is different while dinosaur is a reptile.
57. E. All are different units.
58. A. Books are in shelves, and shelves in library.
59. C. Both robin and swallow are birds.
60. B. Some dogs and some cows are black.
61. to 70. For answering these questions, you should study each of the given figure individually and try to see
 - (i) whether it moves clockwise or anticlockwise
 - (ii) what is the pace of movement.
 - (iii) whether the figure changes direction, it may adopt a reverse position, may turn right or left or may have a swinging motion.
 - (iv) whether something is added to it or taken away from it.
 - (v) what is the relation of the figure with other figures in the box, e.g. a dot or a dash may hop in and out of the main figure.
 - (vi) whether the figure expands in dimensions or contracts.
61. A
62. E
63. E
64. C
65. B
66. B
67. D
68. A
69. D
70. B

Improve Your Word Power

- 1 **agitprop**: (a) prayer (b) propaganda (c) knowledge (d) information
- 2 **burgeon**: (a) surrender (b) grow (c) define (d) capture
- 3 **collate**: (a) assemble (b) narrate (c) describe (d) prescribe
- 4 **dowdy**: (a) bright (b) fashionable (c) unfashionable (d) expensive
- 5 **extenuate**: (a) provoke (b) invoke (c) prevent (d) excuse
- 6 **flounder**: (a) fall (b) confine (c) hesitate (d) attack
- 7 **grapevine**: (a) rope (b) stick (c) source (d) rumour
- 8 **hiccup**: (a) solution (b) small problem (c) opportunity (d) trial
- 9 **lugubrious**: (a) dismal (b) slow (c) excitement (d) inspiration
- 10 **moratorium**: (a) delay (b) cooperation (c) encouragement (d) expression
- 11 **notch**: (a) corner (b) floor (c) bottom (d) level
- 12 **overture**: (a) distinction (b) order (c) approach (d) opening
- 13 **pogrom**: (a) design (b) deception (c) reception (d) killing
- 14 **quixotic**: (a) noble (b) distant (c) near (d) moving
- 15 **rigmarole**: (a) excellent (b) complete (c) complicated (d) tall
- 16 **soggy**: (a) satisfaction (b) soaked (c) impatient (d) ugly
- 17 **trauma**: (a) death (b) disease (c) disgrace (d) shock
- 18 **urbane**: (a) elegant (b) dull (c) offensive (d) dry
- 19 **verve**: (a) haste (b) diffidence (c) direction (d) enthusiasm
- 20 **wee**: (a) sorrow (b) woe (c) suffering (d) little

ANSWERS

- 1 **agitprop**: (b) propaganda
—The wide learning and poetic awareness of the writer lifts his narrative above mere *agitprop*.
- 2 **burgeon**: (b) grow, flourish
—The domestic ready-made garment market is *burgeoning* at a dizzying rate.
- 3 **collate**: (a) assemble, gather
—The book-binder was busy in *collating* the loose pages of a book recently printed.
- 4 **dowdy**: (c) unfashionable, dull
—Fashion experts are complaining that successful professional women in Washington prefer conservative dress and *dowdy* look.
- 5 **extenuate**: (d) excuse, mitigate, weaken
—Because of *extenuating* circumstances (facts that might be regarded as an excuse) the court acquitted him of the crime.
- 6 **flounder**: (c) hesitate, fumble
—I wasn't expecting the interviewer to ask about my private life and was left *floundering* for a while.
- 7 **grapevine**: (d) rumour, gossip, news
—The atmosphere was hot with the *grapevine* that the ministry was on the verge of a collapse.
- 8 **hiccup**: (b) small problem
—It is self-deluding to believe that the troubles in some border States are at best a *hiccup* that will be set right soon.
- 9 **lugubrious**: (a) dismal, mournful
—Nobody welcomes a *lugubrious* fellow in a marriage party.
- 10 **moratorium**: (a) delay, stopping
—It is high time to declare a *moratorium* on arms sales to the warring factions in any region of the world.
- 11 **notch**: (d) level/grade (excellence)
—In a democratic set-up, editors of newspapers have a special status, a *notch* above the managers.
- 12 **overture**: (c) approach, proposal, bid
—If we want to live in peace and harmony with our neighbours, we must make *overtures* of friendship to them.
- 13 **pogrom**: (d) killing, massacre, mass murder
—The biggest migration of human beings from one country to the other took place in August 1947 due to the terror of *pogroms*.
- 14 **quixotic**: (a) noble, unselfish
—The members of art-academy live away from the hustle-bustle of city life, totally immersed in *quixotic* and creative pursuits.
- 15 **rigmarole**: (c) complicated, incoherent
—The painter under discussion portrays the *rigmarole* of urban life in a semi-abstract manner.
- 16 **soggy**: (b) soaked, moist, wet
—The literary critic wonders why all literature became so *soggy* with sentiment after the Mahabharata.
- 17 **trauma**: (d) shock, distressing experience
—None did appreciate the *traumas* of divorce that the young lady was going through.
- 18 **urbane**: (a) elegant, refined
—The visitor impressed the gathering with his *urbane* manners and quick wit.
- 19 **verve**: (d) enthusiasm, vigour
—The book is a brilliant work, written with *verve* that derives its power from the writer's addiction to truth.
- 20 **wee**: (d) little, small.
—Usually I have a *wee* drop of cream in my coffee after lunch.

Investigative Journalism

Our citizens may be deceived for a while, and have been deceived; but as long as the presses can be protected, we may trust them for light. Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost"

Thomas Jefferson.

THERE is no gain-saying the fact that with freedom of press investigative journalism has acquired a distinct place of credibility among the people. If for most of the urbanites or elite, a morning cup of tea and/or a newspaper have become the compulsive stimulants, the onset and onslaught of investigative journalism, which lifts many a lid from the seething cauldron of clandestine deals or harrowing events, may prove too stunning or stupefying to believe and digest at once. If 'news' by definition is the reporting of recent events worthy of being put in black and white, "investigating journalism" aims at indepth probe or close examination, inspired and ignited by overt objectivity consciously committed to finding out truth or facts that have been deliberately kept away from public gaze and critical scrutiny for fear of censure, breach of trust or loss of face. Whatever be the motives behind concealing 'the skeletons in the cupboards' of chilling vaults of official archives, investigative journalism leaves no stone unturned to unearth the facts that have remained inaccessible and invisible so far.

Whereas the composition and contents of news are fresh and immediate, the contours of investigative journalism are spicy, born out of a stale story, resurrected and resuscitated. The former conceives itself in

the present whereas the latter draws its substance and sustenance from the past, buried in half-truths and calculated concoctions, even lies. Lest the reading public is carried away by everything published in the name of investigative journalism, care should be taken to differentiate between a 'scandal and an authentic account'; 'character assassination and character analysis'; 'sensationalism and factual presentation of events/deals'.

The true votaries and practitioners of investigative journalism are men of conviction and courage. Their commitment to the job is not for personal aggrandisement or for spreading the venom of suspicion and hatred. Their pursuit and passion for truth and objective enquiry into the past is not the result of any impulsive or momentary flash of inspiration. Rather, investigation brings out the ills that might have gone into the making of an agreement or decision in the past. By exposing those 'under-hand and under the table' coded conversations and minutes between the vested interests, it helps to educate the public on national as well as international affairs. Besides, investigative journalism becomes a catalyst to social change in a 'credulous' society while keeping a critical eye on national security as also on those who handle sensitive matters of defence equipment, their purchase and quality, usefulness and combative worthiness.

In the corridors of power, there is always some link/leak to help the inquisitive journalist to get at the bottom of truth. Bit by bit the patches are collected and then collated to make out an exposition that had been denied the opportunity to fall into the hands of public. Without fear or favour, for love or for money, hands

are laid on secret papers, which reveal kickbacks running into millions of dollars in the finalisation of bilateral business/defence deals and the money thus extracted finding its way into foreign banks.

While one may quibble over the scope and ethics of the term 'investigative journalism' no one can have any doubts about the stories that have been investigated in India: Belchi, Bhagalpur, Bofors, Kalahandi, Kuo, *et al.* The exposes which made it to the front pages of newspapers and journals after the Emergency have become part of journalistic legend and need no repetition to bring home to the readers how investigative journalists had uncovered the stink and stigma of excesses that were committed in the name of "disciplined democracy", as professed and practised by the powers that be then.

It is quite common that major newspapers in free and open societies typically pride themselves on publishing, in the words of *N.Y. Times*, "all the news that is fit to print." "The Times" is a good test of this claim. It has blazed some well-known trails in independent, investigative reporting. Along with the *Washington Post*, it first published the Pentagon Papers during the Vietnam War, providing a backstage view of how policy makers were intentionally misleading American public opinion over the war in particular and the whole world in general. And the *Times* (again with the *Post*) relentlessly pursued the Watergate affair, documenting the White House sabotage of the Democratic Party that led to Richard Nixon's forced resignation from the presidency. There is no denying the fact that investigative journalism in its hot and dogged pursuit of truth, sealed the fate of an

American President by digging out the woful face of Watergate sent packing a Japanese Prime Minister over Lockheed misdemeanour and led the late Indian Prime Minister to lose elections (1989) over the issue of corruption in high place (Bofors). Coupled with the clichés and then fall out there are quite a few other expositions like the My Lai massacre of Vietnamese during the senseless Vietnam War and the killings of civilians during the Vietnam War.

These vivid and galling happenings were brought to the notice of World opinion by the daring and daunting efforts of those who were determined to unmask the ugly faces of those whom power had made crazy and callous. No doubt, what investigating media bring to light is just the tip of an ice berg. The dubious deals, horrendous horrors of war or oppression, violation of human rights, exploitation of the meek and weak – these are some of the spine-chilling areas in different parts of the world where media investigation free from prejudice and preconception, is always required so that the crimes against humanity committed in vesteryears, are exposed and world conscience is pricked to do some introspection.

The world was taken by surprise when American journalist Lawrence Lischultz investigated and exposed the alleged murky and clandestine operation involving the Israelis and the CIA with Pakistan as a conduit, of the backdoor sale to Iran of millions of dollars of American made weapons. About \$2 billion supply network established to provision the Afghan resistance was exploited by the interested parties/agencies and in this way the whole operation vastly exceeded in scope and scale the known dimensions of the Iran-Contra scandal which came to light in 1986. Again it was the assistance from the US and later the erstwhile Soviet Union that helped Iraq to become the regional power. Thus emboldened by its massive strike-power and vast army, Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, sparking off the Gulf War that came to an end with the near decima-

tion of Iraq's economy and military capability. In the course of time when more journalists peep into the sickening affair of Iran Iraq war and then Iraq-Kuwait conflict and collect incriminating evidence on how US helped arm both Iran and Iraq to wage the most bloody war, the disclosures, if any, would startle the world.

C.K. Chesterton had remarked once that 'it is not the world that has got so much worse but the news coverage that has got so much better'. And Peter Arnett the Gulf War reporter hero (CNN) proved Chesterton right by his superb war reportage from Iraq although his live transmissions evoked much criticism from the US administration and envious rival hacks. History would surely place in perspective the man who sent out the best rough draft of history being written in blood and tears during the most devastating war that did not spare even the hospitals, milk producing factories, bridges, power houses etc. in Iraq. In 1965, Arnett had come out with his most famous story that US and South Vietnamese forces were experimenting with non lethal gas. He was covering an infantry action then with several other reporters and while others were busy taking in details of the landscape and the sound of mortars and artillery, Arnett tuned in to the radio traffic between the command post and outlying companies to land on the scoop (piece of news).

Is investigating journalism a serious or salacious (indecent) business? Is it a solemn or scurrilous (abusive) pursuit? These are some of the questions that keep arising from time to time when financial scandals, political and administrative demeanours are dug out. Let the 'peephole' journalists lose sight of their paramount duty and cultivated commitment to truth and become victims of fabrication and falsehood. A note of caution that 'investigation and not insinuation', 'facts and not fiction' constitute the parameters of investigative journalism. Under no

circumstances does it stand for character vilification nor does it encourage the spreading of vendetta, however compulsive and coercive be the circumstances under which the journalists have to work. It is neither the settlement of personal scores nor is it a launching pad for the realisation of some mean and mercenary motive. With the passage of time things have come under a cloud and the lament of a deeply dedicated Indian editor 'Everything has been devalued at last – not more our currency, but our art and culture and our journalism. Today, papers are being launched to kill each other. That is not journalism that is a corporate war' is not a vain cry of despair but a reflection on the health of journalism which may transform itself further from being an objective observer to an accreting activist if its distortion of purpose and pursuit is not checkmated right now.

I have been reading the morning paper. I do it every morning – well knowing that I shall find in it the usual depravities and baseness and hypocrisies and cruelties that make up civilisation, and cause me to put in the rest of the day pleading for the damnation of the human race.

Mark Twain

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Hazards to Life in a Big City

God made the country and man made the town

~ Cowper

THE fearsome fact of life in any big city is that hazards to life are more or less common and cancerous in nature and psyche. The risks that one encounters and endures in a big city may be due to its tortuous traffic, polluted air and water and/or alienation of the city dweller, who is none other than you and me in different garbs, gaits and gimmicks. With all types of vehicles plying on the city roads, the chances of being knocked down and out, are not imaginary but real if one were to believe the number of road fatalities taking place every 10 (ten) minutes due to vehicular explosion, dare devil driving and short-sighted road planning.

The caustic comment that in India people live/die by chance on roads may not be wholly true but its essence is poignant and painful enough to remind us that traffic hazards to life are not just a matter to be laughed at and hence of no serious consequence. Rightly somebody has called the city-roads as 'death-traps' where pedestrians as well as those sitting on the driver's seat and back run the risk of being run over or struck down by a speeding heavy vehicle, and ironically enough, none may stop to look at the victim profusely bleeding on the road to take him to a nearby hospital for fear of nerve breaking legal implications later on or due to insolent insensitivity acquired over the years.

In the mad race to reach their place of work/appointment, the city-dwellers have been caught in the cobweb of speed which has given birth to numerous human ailments such as nervous-tension, mental strain, worry and anxiety, but despite these ills everyone is hell-bent to take over the other and beat the time-clock by

the fraction of a second. With this obsession on the mind, the city roads have become a veritable vortex of life embracing death, hurry becoming worry and haste turning into hysteria. Rash driving on the congested city roads causes harrowing harassment to public in general but to children, women and the aged in particular.

The alarming acceleration with which cities are expanding and exploding with sound and smoke, poisonous gases and pounding pressures, there is no denying the fact that existence in a big city seems caught in a war zone of open manholes, and pot holes, streams of *puan*-stained spittle, banana skins and stray cattle, thus rendering human movements vulnerable to all types of twists and turns. The exacting exercise of getting into crowded buses and metros/sub-urban trams and then getting off from them, is almost leading a perilous life, for this routine involves rubbing shoulders with pickpockets, getting thrown out of the city's over-crowded local trams/buses and barely escaping fall into the numerous pitfalls that clutter the city roads. Where one cannot reach one's own pocket without hitting half a dozen ribs, the pickpocket with his near-perfect technique picks your pocket and reaches for another victim of his art.

Besides traffic hazards, the city dwellers have to inhale polluted air and drink polluted water with the result that their lungs, chests and other vital human organs are adversely affected and in some cases irreparably damaged. With the excessive presence of smoke and dust, sound and fury, poisonous gases and a host of other pollutants in the air and water, people suffer both physical as well as emotional agony of chronic diseases, breathing troubles and hearing impairments.

The long queues in hospitals and nursing homes, in cities, big and not so big, bear testimony to the crying fact that all is not well with the city life because people are being subjected to face health hazards that have become an inescapable part of city life.

And last but not least are emotional/psychological hazards that one has to put up with in the form of alienation, estrangement or loneliness in the midst of surging crowds and exploding numbers. Loss of identity and non-recognition of personal entity as something distinct and deserving are the irritants that constantly batter and hammer a sensitive soul caught in the whirlpool of earning two square meals and overwhelmed by the deluge of 'acquisitive hedonism' (belief that pleasure should be main aim of life) and consumption boom/culture. The aspirations that drive the new entrants/elite headlong towards the faceless 'cosmopolitan', global identity have more to do with the values of advance, greed and acquisitiveness or with the notion of individual success, than the notions of compassion, sharing, caring or success defined in larger, community terms as far as the city culture, its composition and complexes are concerned.

All said and done, life in a big city is both a challenge and an opportunity. If it holds out the mythical 'golden pot' and stupendous possibilities for self-promotion and prosperity, it throws back a good many problems as well. In the ever changing urban scenario, the choices are getting limited and restricted to choosing between survival and surrender. The delirious demands of life and time are such as will brook no excuse to put the clock back, however dangerous and daunting be the facets of life in a big city.

MODEL PARAGRAPHS

"To laugh at men of sense is the privilege of fools."

—Jean De La Bruyere

To pick up holes in the pockets of wise men's wit and wisdom is the privilege of fools. No doubt it is again the fools who rush headlong where even the angels fear to tread. When fools mock at the sensible, they do so with no malice at heart and no malignancy of purpose. In Shakespeare's great comedies, it is a privilege conferred on the fools only to laugh at the rulers as well as their courtiers free from all censure and castigation by the powers-that-be. The fools are ever prepared to mock at the sagacity of those who claim to 'know-all' and vie with their equals to display their gems of knowledge at the throw of a hat in order to curry favour with their masters/bosses. In such situations the fools like mischievous pickers of jibes jump into the fray and make their presence felt by some caustic comment or tongue-in-cheek remark. To impute motives to fools that never exist is to belittle their role in the too sombre and serious scenario of human relations and state-craft. When the fools put to ridicule the statements and judgments of the wise, they do so to take out the sting of bitterness or banality that might have influenced the deliberations of the sensible.

"An ounce of prudence is worth a pound of gold."

—Smollett

When we are cornered in a tight corner, it is not gold but prudence that comes to our rescue. Both far-sight and fore-sight prove better assets in movements of trials and tribulations than the glittering yellow metal. It is with the help of discretion and doughty judgement that we can turn the tide and swim home safe and sound. Mental alert-

ness coupled with knowledge and caution enables us to tide over unforeseen situations of confusion and consternation. With prudence one can devise ways and means to face the ghosts of dilemmas that take us by surprise to brow-beat and upstage us. Greed for gold put us in the ranks of ordinary mortals but preference for circumspection and thoughtfulness brings us in the company of the wise and learned. Theft of gold renders us poor and pauper but there is no danger to prudence being snatched or swindled by a thief or a pick-pocket. What is in a pocket/bag is likely to fall into the crafty hands of a swindler but what is in the brain, always multiplies and magnifies. Men of prudence and patience are the privileged ones who make a mark for themselves without fear or favour.

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood."

—Marie Curie

Life is not a silent surrender to fears and phantoms. It is a constant quest to understand its riddles and mysteries. To run away from the battle-field of life for fear of being beaten and battered is the lot of the coward and the crazy but the real fighters are those who stand up to the challenge and make every conceivable effort, both physical as well as intellectual, to unravel and comprehend life's secrets that have remained unresolved and unearthened so far. To some, life's journey is shrouded in fears but for the daring and daunting, it is a haunting ground where every appearance or happening is the result of cause and effect. To the intelligent and the rationalist, there is nothing which cannot be explained or apprehended provided there is a will to know and analyse. God has

equipped man with intellect. He would not like him to be caught in the cobweb of fears, mostly imaginary and thus waste his powers and talents that make him different from other species. The one who enters the haunted-house of worldly mysteries and solves its confounding coils of puzzles and predicaments, is the one who justifies his existence and proves equal to the task that has been assigned to him by the Superior Master.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

—George Santayana

Remembering the past is like sifting chaff from the grain and thus preserving the best and the noblest that can stand by us when gathering storms of divisions and distractions are about to blind us to fall into the pits of moral decay and cultural decadence. Past is like the light-house that guides the straying and staggering boat of our life to reach its harbour and haven. To say all that has gone by is pure and pristine is to deny the truth and conceal the convulsions that had given many a blow and battering to social values and national ethos. Such distortions of the past as were responsible for our decline should never be allowed to go out of our perceptions lest we should be condemned to repeat them now and become a laughing stock in our own eyes and a butt of joke in the eyes of others. Knowledge of past mistakes and follies should be enough to jolt us out of our mental inertia and physical complacency because falling into the state of amnesia tantamounts to inviting the enemy waiting in the wings of life's theatre/stage to unleash the forces of frenzy, greed, lies, superstitions *et al.* If history were not the record of adventures and misadventures, deeds and misdeeds, light and shade, there would have been no need to learn from the past.

Parliament on TV

Since the beginning of December last, Doordarshan has been telecasting a part of the proceedings. The presentation started with Question Hour. Has the experiment been successful and has it served its purpose? There are different viewpoints on this issue. The proposition for discussion is: "The telecasting of Parliament proceedings has proved useful and should be continued despite the expenditure on it."

Mr A Sir, from December 2, 1991, Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, and later from the Rajya Sabha, has been filmed, the sound recorded then telecast on a regular basis. On February 29 this year, the Doordarshan viewers had the opportunity to watch the direct presentation, in a familiar professional manner, of the 1992-93 Central Budget by the Finance Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh. From many points of view, this partial coverage of Parliament has been interesting and useful. First, the people are now able to see clearly their elected representatives performing their duty (as the latter think is right and proper), from the comfort of their drawing-rooms. They don't have to go all the way to Parliament House, obtain a pass for the Visitors' Gallery through an M.P., wait in the long queue, go through the security checks, etc and remain confined to their seats for a fairly long time. Second, they find that the Members of Parliament are now more regular in attending the sessions of the House of which they are members. Thirdly, the M.P.s are spruced up sartorially (they are better dressed because they are conscious of the fact that they will be on the small screen sooner or later for everyone to see. The shabby pul-

lovers and crumpled shirts, and the ordinary sarees of old times, have given way to more presentable and well pressed apparel. Fourthly, there is less of shouting, at any rate by some members, though the others still believe that the best method of making their presence felt (or seen) by the general public is to shout now and then, speak loudly and make dramatic gestures in order to attract attention of the Speaker (the Chairman in the case of the Rajya Sabha). Fifthly, there have been very few ugly scenes in the House; there has been more discipline, more orderly conduct and more of compliance with the directives and orders of the presiding officer. In other words, television has exercised a generally sobering influence on the legislators. Time was when there was total absence of decorum; what a Minister or other member was trying to say to prove a point was not audible. Now things have changed. In fact, in some ways the change has been remarkable and the general opinion seems to be that such telecasting of Parliament proceedings should be continued and extended for the benefit of the people. Since the Members of Parliament get full exposure on the small screen at one time or other, they too are in favour of continuing the camera presentation by Doordarshan.

Mr B My predecessor, Mr A, seems to have been carried away by first impressions and does not seem to have given adequate thought and consideration to the actualities. To stress a basic point first, we should take into account the fact that only a small percentage of the people of this country possess television sets. The majority of the people do not

own TV sets (they are of course expensive devices) and are unable to watch the programmes. We should remember that over 75 per cent of the voters live in rural areas, while the majority of those who have the privilege of owning TV sets are in urban areas. The urban people know, through newspapers and magazines, how well or badly their chosen representatives in Parliament perform their function. It is not necessary for them to watch Doordarshan presentation to make a note of their members' actions, their dress, their frequent interruptions of Ministers' speeches etc. Doordarshan is spending lakhs of rupees on telecasting Parliament proceedings—an exercise which benefits only a small percentage of the people. I venture to ask, Sir, whether a poor country like India, where millions of people starve day in and day out, can afford to incur heavy expenditure on this luxury. What benefit does the country and the nation get out of this venture? Very little. The mass of the people are illiterate anyway and so they are ignorant. They do not know who is who in the Parliament chamber; in fact, most of them have seldom, if ever, seen their representatives in Parliament. They cast their votes at election time, generally for a party, once in five years or so and then they forget all about the matter. The community television sets (at panchayat "bhavans" or community centres) generally remain out of order (their maintenance is very poor and they remain as show-pieces). As a result, the common man does not get any opportunity to see the "tamasha" which, he is told, goes on in Parliament at a certain fixed hour. The telecasting of

parliamentary proceedings is a meaningless venture as far as the masses are concerned, especially because they are too busy earning their livelihood, through agricultural operations even in the heat of the sun or working in a factory. How can they interrupt their work in fields or factories to watch television programmes? All they can manage is to listen to the radio in the evenings (the radio is very common in rural areas also). At that time there is no telecasting of Parliament proceedings; they listen only to film and other songs on All India Radio, and that is all. So telecasting of parliamentary proceedings is of no use to them, even though as taxpayers they have to bear a good part of the expenditure.

Mr C Sir, if we were to accept the arguments given by Mr B, we would be compelled to reach the conclusion that the expensive Doordarshan should itself be closed down because the masses cannot afford to buy TV sets. The time when TV sets would become so cheap as to suit the pockets of the poor masses is far far away. Does that mean that the country as it is now, should have no television at all? The fact is that more and more people are now in a position to buy television sets and watch the variety of programmes on the screen day after day, especially in the evenings. I would not like to join the issue raised by my predecessor, Mr B, that television is a sheer luxury and because India is a poor country, we should not think of maintaining and expanding the elaborate infrastructure. Moreover, the telecasting of parliamentary proceedings is by accounts an epoch-making event. It is a step ahead in India's democratic development. The expectations are that the event might soon bring about a near-revolution. The standard of our Parliamentary work is likely to improve because the Members' conduct will be on display. The TV audience is becoming progressively larger in dimension and is also becoming more

discriminatory. Both the Radio and Doordarshan have immense educative value. Why should the opportunity of presenting the parliamentary functioning be wasted? After all, the Government has spent crores of rupees on setting up television stations and is spending lakhs every day on presenting the programmes, the entertainment, the discussions through panels of experts, the song and dance items, the plays, the dramas, screening of films and documentaries and so on. The visual presentation is all for the people's benefit. Cases are known of voters asking their representatives what they are doing for them in Parliament. Through Doordarshan telecasting they can know what they want to know. The argument put forth by some critics, especially the cynics among them, that those who are really keen to know what the MPs do in the House can read the newspapers, especially the items describing the proceedings in the two Houses, is hardly convincing. The reports of Parliament proceedings have to be very brief. Several other items—sports, commercial reports, social and economic developments, rural and urban activities, progress of industry and agriculture, activities outside Parliament—all these have to be accommodated. But what visual presentation can achieve, mere words in a newspaper report cannot. When the proceedings are being telecast, the members are on their best behaviour. Few people have the time to read newspapers in detail. Moreover, a newspaper report devotes, because of pressure on space, only a few lines to each of the speakers. On the other hand a telecast presentation in a few minutes shows what a legislator is doing, how he is presenting his constituents' case, and so on.

Mr D Sir, if we carefully examine the records and note the impressions of those who regularly watch the proceedings of Parliament, we would find that the gains expected from telecasting

the Question Hour and some other proceedings have not accrued. On February 29 this year, when the Union Budget was presented, there was no indication of better behaviour by the members. There were interruptions of the budget speech, there was some noise also, though happily there was no pandemonium. There was also some shouting and, for a few minutes, virtual bedlam. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha maintained his temper and retained his elegance, but if the aim of telecasting the proceedings was to ensure, or at any rate promote, decorum all through the session, that was not achieved. Watching the performances live on the small screen is certainly interesting, but does the nation pay heavily only for entertainment for an hour or so? Is the expense worth all the trouble and expense? Certainly not. We could have managed without it, and the country would not have been any worse. In fact, at times it was self-defeating. Again, astronomical sums are spent on showing excerpts from the Question Hour, the net gain to the country is hardly worth mentioning. Moreover, many people have begun to doubt whether the experiment was instructive and enlightening. It did however have some interesting moments but at what heavy expenditure! The polished and articulate MPs and in the spotlight in any case, telecast or no telecast. Their speeches are prominently published in newspapers and reported in normal TV broadcasts, notably in the "Parliament News" and "Sansad Samachar" in both English and Hindi. Several MPs who are backbenchers still doze off or relax, and many other people refuse to accept the plea that telecasting of Doordarshan programmes help to promote the democratic process. Besides, several Parliament members have complained that the 15-minute condensation of Question Hour in the next morning's programme hardly does justice to them. Shortening of such items to a quarter of the time utilised often results in distortion of the programmes.

You Can Manage Your Troubles

You cannot stop the tides of trouble from flying over your head. But you can prevent them from making nests in your heart.

Chinese Proverb

We all have our troubles

All of us have troubles—some problems, emotional ups and downs—caused by life's frustrations, money problems, job worries and a host of other kinds of frustrations. Rich or poor troubles come to all of us. No one knows with certainty from one day to the next just what the next day will bring. Life is very unpredictable. The fact that none can feel totally secure in anything subjects us to a common frustration. We are all in the same boat trying to make the most of life, adopting ourselves to each changing situation.

Duty to survive life's troubles

Town misfortune. But it is also true that many of us often become the innocent victims of the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. Assuming the philosophical attitude that any one at any time can suddenly be confronted with a serious problem because of unforeseen circumstances makes us realize that no one is exempt from life's frustrations. Man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upwards. We can only be held responsible for those troubles which we have deliberately brought on ourselves due to faulty judgment or some other reason.

While we are all capable of making serious mistakes the important thing is profit from our sad experiences. We cannot always zig zag from life's difficulties. When troubles come to us, and often they come not single spies but in battalions, it is only natural that we should have our moods of depression and discouragement. It is only human to find ourselves in trouble and reacting to it with temporary despondency. Nevertheless to remain continually in the doldrums because of some major frustration is an emotional reaction that is morbid and capable of making

you sicker than you would ever want to be. As Martin Gray says in his *A Book of Life* (1975) "Life's pendulum swings between darkness and light, despair and hope, torment and peace. Life has always to be conquered. All existence is a struggle. Life is simply winning through."

Are you a chronic worrier?

By worry we mean an abnormal concern over something existing or something unpleasant you fear may happen to you. It is defined as being immobilized in the present as a result of things going or not going to happen in the future. It is a contrivance that keeps you immobilized in the now about something in the future, frequently something over which you have no control.

Abnormal worry is frequently the root of unrelieved depression and unhappiness. A chronic worrier dissipates his energy because the things he worries about seldom happen. As Dr. Floyd Foster aptly puts it, "to worry is as foolish and wasteful as driving one's car into the garage and leaving the motor running all night. A tremendous amount of energy would be consumed, but the car would not be going anywhere. Excessive worry can bring ulcers, hypertension, clamps, headaches and the like. It destroys health; it can cause premature ageing. It is a form of self-torment. The famous Dejeune of Paris said, 'In our lives there are mountains and molehills, but in the lives of neurasthenics there are only mountains.'"

Worry Test

DR Caprio has formulated the following worry test. It will enable you to gain some inkling as to whether you are a chronic worrier. Ask yourself the following questions. Check the Yes or No column. If the majority of your checks are Yes answers, you no doubt have the personality of neurotic worrier.

Questions

1 Do you bring your work

troubles home?

Yes/No

2 Are you constantly preoccupied with health problems?

Yes/No

3 Does the least emotional stress give you a feeling of butterflies in your stomach?

Yes/No

4 Do you go from doctor to doctor trying to find out what's wrong with you?

Yes/No

5 Are you overly cautious about everything?

Yes/No

6 Do you take a pessimistic view about most things?

Yes/No

Are you inclined to make mountains of molehills?

Yes/No

8 Are you over concerned about what other people think?

Yes/No

9 Are you continually worried about the welfare of members of your family?

Yes/No

10 Do you dwell on past mistakes?

Yes/No

11 Do you worry about going insane, dying or developing cancer?

Yes/No

12 Do you lack confidence in the future?

Yes/No

13 Are you superstitious?

Yes/No

14 Do you worry about God punishing you?

Yes/No

15 Are you a perfectionist?

Yes/No

16 Were you brought up by parents who worried to excess?

Yes/No

17 Have you always been serious minded?

Yes/No

18 Are you over sensitive to criticism, easily offended and addicted to brooding over slights?

Yes/No

19 Can you trace your worry habit to some painful frustration in the past?

Yes/No

20 Do you worry about everyday responsibilities?

Yes/No

21 Do you worry about the kind of impression you make on other

people? Yes/No

22 Do you constantly talk about the things that worry you to those around you? Yes/No

23 Must you be constantly reassured that nothing will happen to you? Yes/No

24 Are you dependent on others to solve your troubles? Yes/No

25 Do you worry excessively about other people's troubles and misfortunes? Yes/No

26 Are your imagined fear associated with something you have read or heard? Yes/No

27 Are you over suspicious and doubt the integrity of your friends? Yes/No

28 Are your money troubles a constant source of worry? Yes/No

29 Do you have a compulsive need to worry? Yes/No

30 Are you the type to bite off more than you can chew and then worry about it? Yes/No

31 Do you lack a sense of humour? Yes/No

32 Are you afraid to enjoy life? Yes/No

How to manage your troubles?

HIRE are some psychologically sound techniques for the management of your day to day troubles and frustrations.

Don't cross a bridge till you come to it: That is to say, don't worry about something before it has happened. Your tears may be groundless, for it may never happen. Remember "Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you."

Don't think about you all the time If you do so your troubles are likely to get out of hand. Molehills will grow into mountains, and any setback will be seen as more of an obstacle than it actually is. It is necessary to look beyond yourself. Then you recognize for instance that you are not the only person experiencing the loneliness of the hospital bed, or the aching emptiness of bereavement, or the cruel frustration of another failure, or the nagging pain of unavoidable frustration. Don't ever be too sorry for yourself. Every minute of every day, somewhere, some one lands in trouble similar to yours. You are not the only target of trouble.

Don't leap in the dark: Think

carefully before you act. People are easily frustrated when they allow themselves to act on an impulse. Act with clear understanding to avoid disappointment. "Haste makes waste" runs the old saying, "and waste makes want, and want makes strife between the good man and his wife." If you must hasten, hasten slowly.

Don't be a perfectionist: Perfectionists are disposed to be easily frustrated because they expect too much of themselves and others. They are too idealistic and less realistic. Says Bertrand Russell, "Real life is, to most men, a long second-best—a perpetual compromise between the ideal and the possible." Perfection spells immobility or paralysis.

Don't look for trouble. An optimist and a pessimist went into business together. Trade flourished. "Well", said the optimist, "We've had a wonderful month. It has been one constant run of customers." "Yeah", agreed the pessimist dourly, "We have had some good business. But look at those front doors! If people keep shoving through them, the hinges will be out in another week." Don't meet trouble half way.

Talk out your problems. Talk out your problems with someone you think can help you. Merely talking things over with someone provides an outlet for fear and tension. Never be too proud or shy to seek outside help.

Simplify your life: Don't deliberately invite complications that will cause worry and anxiety.

Learn to live now: Learn to live in the present and not waste your current moments in immobilizing thoughts about the past or future. "There is no other moment to live but now", says Dr Dyer Lewis Carroll in his 'Alice Through the Looking-Glass' speaks about living in the present.

"The rule is jam less tomorrow and jam yesterday but never jam today."

"It must come sometimes to jam today" Alice objected. "How about you? Any jam today? Since it must come sometimes, how about now? At the same time don't look too far ahead. Live one day at a time. Make the best and most of here and now."

Worry-killer question: Ask yourself this worry eradicating

question, "What's the worst thing that could happen to me (or them) and what is the likelihood of it occurring?" You will discover the absurdity of worry in this way.

You cannot please everybody: You cannot always please everyone. To run into people who dislike you, is to be expected. Accept rejection stoically.

Be practical. Be strictly practical and down-to-earth about your troubles. Accept them as a challenge to your courage, guts and ingenuity.

Lift of laughter: When things go wrong try the lift of laughter. Think of something to smile or laugh about. Use your sense of humour when you need it most. Don't take yourself and your problems so seriously that you cannot stand back and view the absurdity of taking anything so solemnly. "Appreciate the immense value of humour", says H.N. Casson, "No man ever laughed himself mad, but millions have laughed themselves into sense and sanity."

Power within

SELL yourself the idea that you have a power within you that will help you to meet your adversities courageously—that will enable you to surmount any obstacle. "There are still potentialities in you that you cannot even feel", says M. Malinski in his 'One Daily Bread' (1979). "You are capable of deeds you never thought of in your wildest dreams. Greatness slumbers within you. Have confidence in yourself."

Control your emotions: Learn to control your emotions. Coping with your day-to-day frustrations successfully depends on how well you can control your emotions.

Act

ACTION is the single most effective antidote for depression, worry and tension. It is virtually impossible to be depressed and active at the same time. If you decide to do something about your problem rather than grumbling about it, you will be on the road to changing things around yourself. If about your situational-problem you find asking yourself, "Yes, but what can I do?" the answer is really very simple. *Anything* is lots better than nothing. Be an action-oriented person.

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THE TOTAL AWARENESS MAGAZINE

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Dear Reader,

It is common knowledge that this is the age of professionalism and, by and large, of professionals, that is, people who are fully trained in one vocation or another. The employment market for such trained and skilled people is wide while that for untrained youth who have received merely theoretical education and have no experience or training is narrow.

In this connection it would be relevant to mention the findings of a Bombay-based company which recently carried out a survey. Evidently reflecting the transformed economic scenario, the bulk of the professionally equipped youth prefer the banking and financial sector for good jobs. Nearly 57 per cent of the vast number of fresh MBA graduates, for instance, now expect a monthly salary of between Rs 4000 to Rs 7000. The lucky ones may get Rs 7000 or more per month in their very first post. This is indeed heartening.

On April 2 this year, Finance Minister Manmohan Singh assured bank employees that the Government had an open mind regarding the recommendations of the Narasimhan Committee on financial sector reforms. The Government, in fact, is anxious to ensure that the health of the banking system improves at a faster rate.

Since the ultimate interests of both the well-qualified employees in various sectors and the administration are the same, it would be best to avoid the path of confrontation and work in cooperation. Unfortunately, because of a snag or a slow-down at some level, obstructions are created. These benefit no one and merely cause a setback to the public interest.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

O P Khanna

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HUMAN RIGHTS

The editorial in the "C.M.'s" March '92 issue seems to reflect the Government's line with respect to human rights in India. To dismiss reports of Amnesty International as being politically motivated is to bypass the issue.

Kashmir and Punjab are perhaps the only exceptions in which violation of human rights can be 'defended' by the Government. In these two States, secessionists and terrorists have been using the gun with impunity and pose a threat to the unity and integrity of the country. As such, the Government is right in concentrating on the trouble-makers with a heavy hand. So wide has become the terrorists' base that they are now in league with the police and civilians holding responsible positions in society. As such, the chances of innocent persons being victimised cannot be ruled out.

The rest of India has a sorry tale to tell as regards human rights. The Bhangalpur bloodings, the Meham by-elections, the numerous caste wars that are still common in Bihar, and the exploitation of rural labour by unscrupulous contractors and middlemen are a few instances of human rights being trampled upon. Law and justice are realised only in Hindi films and not in real life. This, Sir, is my counter-point to your "Paint counter-point".

Janmuni Roshan Mehta

RACE FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Your Special Feature-I (March '92 issue) paints a very unfortunate but true picture of Pak's nuclear capability. On the one hand, Pakistan wants the Indian sub-continent to be free from nuclear weapons and wants India to sign a treaty, while on the other hand it continues to enhance its weapons stockpile. This has been evident from U.S. Senator Pressler's statement at Islamabad.

In these circumstances India should reconsider its foreign policy. It should raise the issue in the U.N. and put pressure on Pakistan so that it abandons its nuclear weapon programme, else the arms concentration may lead to a catastrophe.

Mangalore Bhanubrata Saha

"Pakistan's 15 N-bombs" (March '92 issue) is undoubtedly a timely article. If Pakistan does possess nuclear bombs in the true sense of the term, it would certainly be a grave danger to India because "the obvious target in case the bomb is actually put to use would be India".

A good many problems are now facing India. The Kashmir issue is a glaring

instance. Now Islamabad is adding another problem.

Kumra Kashpur Ramprasad Debnath

India must have a nuclear bomb because of two specific reasons. The Pak possession of n.-bombs is an acknowledged fact. Countering any threat to its sovereignty is India's prime concern. The past has shown the true intentions of our neighbours. Pakistan can go to any extent in internal crises, from aiding terrorism to waging proxy wars to settle old scores with India and to satisfy its hurt psyche. To maintain peace and harmony in the region thus becomes a matter of India's deep concern. It should act as a big brother. It is wise to have power and then become a champion of peace. So a nuclear weapon is indispensable for India.

C/o 99 APC Cpl Manphool Singh

WOMEN'S PLIGHT

The formation of a national commission for women has kindled hopes for a higher status. Women face a plethora of problems in society. Since independence a series of laws have been passed by the Government for uplift of women but, unfortunately, nothing much has come out of them. Why are these laws not effective? Why are women still victims of molestation, rapes, social injustice, husband cruelty, dowry deaths, etc? This question exposes the hollowness of our society. Laws and commissions seem to be farces because of non-implementation.

Muzaffarpur Manimala Sinha

A woman's life is fraught with problems since her birth. In childhood she is ill-treated at home and later becomes a victim of the lust of males. Women suffer humiliation silently. The Constitution provides full rights for them, politicians give high-sounding assurances for their welfare; a commission has been formed to uphold their dignity but all these efforts are a mere eyewash. Women should not be confined to the four walls of the house. They should be able to taste the privileges guaranteed to them and show their mettle in the social arena.

Hooghly Sanjoy Chandra

I found one point missing from the article "Commission for Women". Nobody has pointed out an effective remedy for the backwardness of women in society.

I would like to ask the Government: when it can reserve some constituencies for S/C & S/T, why can't it adopt the same course for women who comprise almost half the country's population? I feel that entry of women in politics in a large number would help in bringing down violence and other malpractices.

Muzaffarpur Navesh Kumar

AGRICULTURE DURING THE EIGHTIES

The article is timely and reflects

due regard for the core structure of the Indian economy. Nearly three decades ago, the late Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri gave a clarion call—"Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" which seems to have been buried under bureaucratic files.

Land resources having great potential for unemployed manpower should be harnessed through adroit planning.

307 TRU, AF

Cpl J. Singh

EIGHTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

Apropos of your article I would like to say that our leaders should follow the example of athletes who take a high jump, higher than the earlier one in a high jump competition. Every leap should be better than the earlier one in the economy. Our leaders should check the reasons for their failures in the earlier plans and avoid them or endeavour to remove the faults.

Frequent checks, continuous acceleration and strict vigilance are what we require today. More and more people should be motivated to work honestly for objectives of the Eighth Plan. There is always room for improvement even in the best.

Pilani

Vijay Lakshmi

THE WILL TO SUCCEED

Your write-up is inspiring. It is easier to raise people in slumber than the people who are awake. Similarly, "The C.M." is raising the waking and disappointed people, which is indeed a difficult work. While reading this feature, I am reminded of a famous stanza of Longfellow:

Let us then be up and doing

with a heart far away fate

Still achieving, still pursuing

Learn to labour and to wait

Sheikhpura Md Ibroz Khan Sakoonat

ADS IN CM

I read your letter in the April '92 issue regarding the inclusion of ads in the CM. Some readers have unnecessarily raised hue and cry against ads. There should be no objection to ads as long as there is no cut in the material in the magazine. Moreover if we get a subsidised rate following the inclusion of ads, what's the harm?

Roorkee

Lokesh

May be you have recently appeared in any competitive examination.

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Your gesture will be highly appreciated.

More Political Entities!

THE divisive and splitting up process in the country seems to be endless. The latest evidence in this regard is provided by the recommendation of a representative body to set up an autonomous administrative political structure, to be known as Jharkand General Council, for 13 districts of south Bihar instead of accepting the Jharkand Mukti Morcha's persistent demand for establishment of a separate State. The Committee on Jharkand, in its report submitted recently, proposed the creation of a Union Territory or a Jharkand General Council. The Union Government seems to favour the latter course. Since the Jharkand Mukti Morcha has rejected the proposal for establishing a General Council to manage local matters, and also the proposal for creating a Union Territory, and since the Government has firmly turned down the plea for formation of a separate Jharkand State, there is a deadlock in the negotiations.

The deadlock was confirmed on April 6 and 7 this year when Home Minister S.B. Chavan conferred with leaders of various political parties in New Delhi. The lack of consensus on the issue of creating a Jharkand State came to the fore at the discussions. True, there is almost always a difference of opinion whenever the question of carving out a new State or Union Territory is under discussion, but the Jharkand issue has several complications and compulsions.

The 24-member committee on Jharkand has recommended that at this stage the applicability of the Union Territory model may be considered because the Jharkand region is of singular economic importance. The response to the demand for a separate State or autonomy in the Jharkand region is extensive and is more regional than ethnic. While suggesting the Union Territory model, the report said that from the mineral ores, forests, water and hydel potential view, the Jharkand region constitutes perhaps the richest zone in the country. Since the beginning of this century, it has witnessed an unprecedented pace of industrialisation. Demographically, its composition is variegated, forming a rich mosaic. Paradoxically, the local and indigenous population has remained very poor and backward. All these ingredients go to make the Jharkand region unique, meriting direct Central care. But the

Union Territory status implies separation of the region from the present State of Bihar.

Further, there is no guarantee that the region will secure an objective and promotive administration in lieu of the present-day allegedly biased administration run principally by north Bihar personnel. It may be more advisable to look for an assured basis of an administration that is locally responsive. The report makes it clear that the idea of a separate Jharkand State carved out of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa is not acceptable to the other States. However the Committee, while recognising the similarities in ethnicity and cultures of the tribals in the area demanded as Jharkand, has stated that the 22 districts spread over four States should be recognised as a distinct cultural area which should be developed irrespective of the political and administrative boundaries into which it has been divided.

Bihar is obviously facing a major crisis. Apart from the intense poverty, general lawlessness and increase in crime, there is the proposal to carve out a resources rich Jharkand from it. The anarchic conditions were highlighted by the Jharkand "bandh", the spate of extortions and kidnappings for ransom. That is why the Chief Minister feels greatly concerned over the Jharkand issue and has been in close touch with the Centre about the matter.

Then there is the issue of Bodoland—an entity proposed to be created out of Assam territory. The influential and expert committee is reported to have suggested setting up of a three-tier politico-administrative structure from the village level towards creating a Legislative Council in Assam and providing an organic link between the two by making a provision for ethnic representation in the Upper House. The Bodo groups have been fighting for a separate State. The committee made a thorough assessment of the Bodo population and other plains tribes to the north of the Brahmaputra, and it considered the extent of the autonomy that could be given to tribes. The Bodo report recommended two councils and an Upper House in Assam. This plan, if implemented, while solving a few problems would have far-reaching repercussions.

Curbing Money Power in Polls

Money and muscle power, unfortunately, play a vital role in elections in India. In fact, the numerous electoral malpractices are ugly taints on Indian democracy and account for the debasement of our political life. In the process, the recognised norms of an electoral exercise are clean forgotten. In March this year the Election Commission made new proposals for poll reforms. Some of these are discussed in this feature.

AMONG the glaring defects in the Indian electoral system is the loophole which enables a candidate to spend tons of money on his or her election without properly accounting for it, that is, without a true and fully verified statement of accounts. The result is that elections have become very expensive, the candidates are able to spend lakhs, and in some cases over a crore or more, in the bid to improve the chances of success. People commanding fat purses themselves, or enjoying the support of rich businessmen, profiteers, smugglers and black marketeers, alone can afford to contest elections, especially from the large sprawling Lok Sabha constituencies. The statements of accounts submitted by the candidates are mostly false and hence totally misleading. But so faulty is the existing system that they get away with them. As a consequence, a legislator starts his career with a statement of election accounts which hides the truth.

To partly solve this problem, the Election Commission periodically makes recommendations. It has now suggested that all registered political parties should publish their accounts annually to be audited by agencies specifically specified by the Election Commission, to curb money power in the electoral arena. This is one of the measures recommended by the

Election Commission to minimise the pernicious role of money power in elections. Otherwise, the Commission feels, any State subvention or subsidy to candidates would only become an additional resource at their disposal and add to the already huge expenses of the election.

In another significant recommendation, the Commission has said that no association or body of persons (except a registered political party or individual) should be permitted to incur any election expenditure without the written authorisation of the candidate concerned or his election agent. If so authorised, such expenditure should be included in the return of election expenses of the candidate concerned. This recommendation is significant because in the light of the practice adopted by a majority of the candidates who declare their personal election expenditure as within the official limits saying the rest of the contributions were made and expenditure was incurred by friends and well-wishers.

Poll Expenditure: The Election Commission is of the view that the existing provisions in Section 77 and 78, read with Section 10A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, relating to election expenses by candidates are totally ineffective to serve the intended purpose of placing curbs on the unscrupulous use of money in elections. Again, it has to be kept in mind that under the existing law the candidates and political parties freely spend as much as they can, with impunity. Cases are known of candidates spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees on poll campaigns and yet stating "nil" or nominal figures in the statement of expenses filed by them before the authorities concerned. In every case, the expenses are stated to be well within the prescribed limit.

There is obviously need to tighten the law so that it serves the purpose and those flouting the provisions should be made to suffer penalties. As things are, many people think we might as well scrap the law because it is wholly ineffective and is mocked at. The Commission has suggested that any person violating the legal provisions should be liable to punishment with minimum imprisonment of one year which may be extended up to five years and with fine.

The Election Commission's new package has been so designed as to make it truly effective. To this end, three additional recommendations have been made. Any candidate failing to maintain a true account of election expenses or not filing a true copy with the District Election Officers within the prescribed time and manner or lodging a false account, should be liable to punishment with a minimum period of six months imprisonment and extending up to 12 months, with fine. Any such person should, on conviction, become disqualified for being chosen as a member of Parliament or a State Assembly for a period of six years. Further, any candidate failing to lodge his return of election expenses within the prescribed time-limit should automatically stand disqualified for five years.

Dealing with corrupt practices and corrupt candidates for elections has all along been a difficult problem. Such people repeatedly flout the code of conduct. So the Election Commission has urged that candidates found violating the model code of conduct and guilty of corrupt practices should be automatically disqualified for a six-year period. The Commission felt that the proposal to give legal sanction to part VII of the Model Code of Conduct, vide

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Clauses 15 and 16 of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990, to make its violation an illegal practice with imprisonment up to two years or with fine, or both, would not achieve the desired result.

Anomalous Position: According to the Commission, the resort to these illegal practices should also result in the election being declared void. At present a person found guilty of corrupt practices might be disqualified under Section 8-A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, by the President on the opinion of the Election Commission for any period up to six years. Pending the decision of the President, the person concerned is free to contest elections. This results in an anomalous situation if he gets elected and is subsequently disqualified by the President on the basis of the Commission's opinion. Therefore it would be better if the guilty person automatically incurs disqualification for six years, as was the case before the 1975 amendment.

In another far-reaching proposal, the Commission has recommended that the Chief Electoral Officers, District Election Officers and Returning Officers should be empowered to order "cease and desist" in cases of violation of the model code, involving misuse of government machinery and vehicles, or offending posters and cassettes.

Among the practices now sought to be made illegal are: political parties and candidates writing slogans or pasting posters on the walls of government buildings and private premises; these posters are sources of great annoyance and their removal means unnecessary expenditure on the part of the building owners. Though some States have enacted laws on the subject, they are generally ineffective.

Again, countermanding an election because of the death of an independent candidate causes much dislocation of the electoral exercise. In the summer of 1991 elections were scheduled to be held in Punjab but

were postponed by the Chief Election Commissioner (allegedly for political reasons because the Congress had decided not to contest the polls, for undisclosed reasons). About 20 independent candidates were stated to have been killed by the militants in the State. A Bill passed by the Rajya Sabha in March this year was aimed at restricting the countermanding of elections only on the ground of the death of a candidate belonging to a recognised political party. With increasing terrorism and violence in some parts of the country and the increase in the number of independent candidates, the danger of disruption of the electoral process has multiplied. The Bill replaced the ordinance promulgated on January 4, 1992. In May 1991, a high-powered committee on electoral reforms, in its report released in May, 1991, recommended countermanding of an election only in the case of the death of a candidate belonging to a recognised political party, a time-limit for holding by-elections (at present there is no such limit and by-elections are at times held after a long interval, at the convenience of the ruling party and the Election Commission, lowering the age for contesting elections and strengthening the Election Commission to ensure free and fair polls. The Committee also recommended that the age for contesting elections to the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies should be reduced to 21 years, and for elections to the Rajya Sabha (described as the "House of Elders") and the Legislative Councils to 25 years. The Committee stressed the need for a multi-member Election Commission comprising three members. The Chief Election Commissioner should be appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition. In case no Leader of the Opposition was available, consultation in this regard should be held with the leader of the largest opposition group in the Lok Sabha. The consultation regarding the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner should be made statutory. But the Committee did not favour the suggestion made by some political

parties that Regional Commissioners for different zones should be appointed. Such appointments should be made only as and when necessary and not on a permanent footing. The tenure of the officials should be five years or till the age of 65, whichever is later. They should be made ineligible for any appointment under the Government or as Governors. Transfers of officials connected with election work should be effected only in consultation with the Election Commission.

But the recommendations of the committee on electoral reforms and the various measures passed by Parliament do not cover such important matters as rigging which has become a great menace in recent years. There has been much progress lately in the technique and methods of rigging the polls. There are cases where a group of toughs and musclemen backing a particular candidate do not permit or scare away the poll agents of the rival parties or stuff the boxes with seized voting papers marked in favour of the favoured candidate. In many such cases, the election officers and their staff are asked to go away or are forced to quit the polling booth or watch the scene quietly under the shadow of the gun. Often the *goondas* swoop down at a polling booth and prevent innocent voters from entering a booth. There are more aggressive methods of rigging also. Until these practices are stopped, free and fair elections are impossible.

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US Threats to India

New strains have developed between India and the USA. Insidious pressures are being exercised from across the seas, though this impression is being denied by both Washington and New Delhi. The areas covered include the nuclear field, the NPT and also mundane matters such as the supply and purchase of foodgrains, notably wheat and rice. Extraneous factors have also played a part in the latest twist in relations between the two countries.

THE use of force by the United States against India, and also Pakistan (if need be) in certain circumstances to prevent development of weapons of mass destruction by these two countries is contemplated, according to a classified internal policy document. This report, obviously a top secret, has caused surprise to countless people in many countries, especially the Indian sub-continent. The document has been prepared by the Pentagon in cooperation with the National Security Council of the USA and with the consent of President George Bush and his senior advisers. In particular, the work has been done under the direction of the Under-Secretary for Defence Policy.

In the context of the recent gestures made by the USA through its President and his spokesmen, people in this country would hardly believe that in the post Cold-War context a friendly country such as the USA would even think of attacking India. And yet, as a popular idiom would have it, there are no permanent friends in this world, only permanent interests. These interests often turn friends into enemies and enemies into friends. In some cases, the changes take time while in others the political weather changes in a matter of a few months or even weeks.

The new policy document clubs

India and Pakistan with Iran and North Korea as part of the USA's military targets at a future time. The US may be faced with the question of whether to take military steps to prevent the development or use of weapons of mass destruction. It notes that the measures could include pre-empting an impending attack with nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or punishing the attackers or threatening punishment of aggressors through a variety of means, including attacks on the establishments that manufacture such weapons. The document takes note of the fact that the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) is due for renewal in 1995 and says: "Should it fail, there could ensue a potentially destabilising process that could produce unspecified critical challenges which the US and concerned partners must be prepared to meet."

The USA's political and military missions in the post-Cold War world will be to ensure that no rival super power emerges in Western Europe, Asia or the former Soviet Union. Clearly, the US administration, as is quite appropriate, is anxious to safeguard the country's defence interests in the years to come. The 48-page document, according to US press reports, has been circulating at the highest levels of the Pentagon for the past many weeks. It is believed to be the basis on which the US is currently demanding that India should attend a five-power conference to proclaim South Asia a nuclear peace zone to get US and Pakistan arms manufacturers off the hook on nuclear proliferation. At the same time, so runs the US defence officials' belief, India should not try to develop as a missile power. It is understood that part of the American mission will be convincing potential com-

petitors that they need not aspire to a greater role to pursue a more aggressive posture to protect their legitimate interests.

Defence Minister, Mr Sharad Pawar, informed Parliament on March 9 this year that India's Foreign Secretary J.N. Dixit, who was then in Washington, had been asked to gather more information about the Pentagon's strategic Plan to initiate military action against India and some other countries to prevent the development or use of weapons of mass destruction. Mr Pawar also stated that the Government of India did not have any authentic information about the Pentagon's strategic plans. He was trying to pacify the agitated opposition members who were apparently alarmed by the reports that the US might use force against India. The concerned M.P.s feared a threat to the country's sovereignty. Whether by coincidence or design, the US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, tried to minimise the significance of the Pentagon report (threatening India with war under certain circumstances and expressing the need for creating a balance of power in South Asia to checkmate India's "hegemonistic ambitions") by stating that it need not be taken note of as a serious matter. In fact, a spokesman said the State Department had no input in the document. India's Foreign Secretary Dixit was of the view that it was "perhaps an internal document". He felt that Indo-U.S. relations should be dealt with at a more substantial level.

Doubts about the assertions made by the State Department spokesman were confirmed on March 12 when US President George Bush said he was "broadly supportive" of the Pentagon document on the US intention to remain the

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world's sole Super Power. What is more, Pentagon officials disclosed that the draft was likely to be approved by the Defence Secretary, with only "minor changes". It was not clear whether the "minor changes" would leave intact the portion of the statement where it envisages US military power being used against India and Pakistan, if necessary, to prevent nuclear and missile proliferation and regional conflicts. The document urges resumption of military aid to Pakistan and describes India as hegemonic.

But President Bush said he had not read the 46-page classified document which has been extensively published in the USA's leading newspapers, "The New York Times" and the "Washington Post". But he urged reporters at a news conference not to put too much emphasis on leaked reports, particularly the ones that he had not seen. Referring to his own security philosophy, however, he said he favoured the thrust of the Pentagon document. According to him, the USA has a burden to bear. "We have worked effectively through multinational organisations." The clearest example of that was what happened in the Gulf War, but "we are leaders and we must continue to lead, we must continue to stay engaged. So it is not a clear-cut choice of either or."

It is also important to note that India and the USA have decided to hold bilateral nuclear talks in a few weeks. This virtually stalls the earlier US insistence on holding the five-power nuclear conference (as earlier proposed by Pakistan Prime Minister and later, for reasons of subtle diplomacy, offered as the USA's own proposal). The future of the five-power talks, which cannot be held without India, will depend on how the bilateral Indo-American talks go. Mr Dixit's talks with US officials have established a link between Indian participation in any five-nation or larger conference and the bilateral discussions on what it is all about.

Mr Dixit is stated to have as-

serted that there is no questioning of our contention that there is a difference between signing the Non-proliferation Treaty and commitment to non-proliferation. The fact is that during Mr Dixit's talks in Washington there was an advocacy by the Americans that India should sign the NPT, though "there is no pressure on that". However, the US is absolutely insistent on substantive parleys on non-proliferation bilaterally first and they are keen on a five-power conference, Mr Dixit disclosed.

On March 16 India categorically ruled out signing of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and in effect turned down the US proposal for a five-nation summit to discuss non-proliferation in South Asia. Making a statement in Parliament on that day, the Minister of State for External Affairs explained that while India was prepared to talk to the USA on non-proliferation, given the ground realities, the proposed five-nation meeting would be "an exercise in acrimony". The Minister also affirmed that the Pentagon statement did not reflect the official view. In fact, the view expressed in it had been described by a US official spokesman as "myopic and shallow". The document, which outlines the U.S. perceptions and strategies in relation to the entire world, contains some paragraphs which actually favour a US-Pakistani military relationship to promote stable security conditions in South-West Asia and Central Asia. It also refers to India's "hegemonistic aspirations" in South Asia.

The Indian Foreign Secretary had confirmed during his talks in Washington that there was no change in India's stand on the NPT. India will not sign the treaty which is "highly discriminatory", he said. The US has been urging India to take a course of action with regard to Special-301. The Government of India had affirmed that it would never compromise the country's national interests. Trade-related intellectual property rights are being discussed and negotiated in GATT under

Uruguay Round.

The foodgrains question: To curtail the quota for wheat export and improve the supply position and thus to contain prices in the country the Government of India decided in January this year to make arrangements for import of 10 lakh tonnes of wheat. The Government claimed to exercise abundant caution in ensuring adequate supply of foodgrains through the public distribution system and the open market. During the current year (1991-92) a total quantity of 6.72 lakh tonnes of wheat had been exported.

Recently, Cuba had asked for wheat and rice; since the Union Government has limited stocks of wheat but had sufficient stocks of rice, it expressed its inability to supply wheat but offered rice. The American Agriculture Secretary's remark that since India was not a traditional importer of US wheat, the US would not be able to supply this grain to this country. The US stand was reportedly supported by the plea that since India had struck a deal with Cuba for sale of rice, the US would not supply wheat to this country. Of course India is free to buy wheat from any country (the other potential sellers are E.E.C., Canada, Argentina and Mexico).

The US Secretary for Agriculture made it clear that the US could not extend to India the subsidised price for the one million tonnes of wheat that country had asked for. The US official made no reference to the proposed sale of Indian wheat to Cuba, but it is understood that objection had been taken by some US quarters to the proposed Indian supply of rice to Cuba, presumably on ideological grounds. India's Commerce Minister, Mr Chidambaram, pointed out that the linking of proposed sale of Indian rice to Cuba with supply of US wheat to India at a subsidised price was unacceptable. It is believed that the US Agriculture Secretary's belligerence is motivated by domestic factors (this is an election year in the USA). India has rightly refused to be influenced by extraneous factors in this matter.

Union Budget, 1992-93: A Landmark in the Fiscal History of India

Introduction

NEVER in the history of Independent India has the Central government's budget triggered off a storm that rocked the Parliament and even jeopardised Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao's eight month old government. All this preceded the presentation of the budget under discussion. Is there something basically wrong with the formulations or content of the budget which justified this? The question calls for examination here.

It may be stated without any fear of contradiction that no economic budget can have the distinction of universal acceptance or credibility. The budget for 1992-93 is no exception. What bothers one most is that the onslaught mounted by the Opposition is highly politically-motivated and has no economic rationale.

The charge that the budget has been prepared at the dictats of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank amounts to arguing that a nation 860-million strong lacks brains to realize that the macro-economic adjustment policies embodied in this and the last year's budgets are the much-needed correctives for our de-railed economy. This sort of accusation is, without doubt, the outcome of either gross misgivings or else there is unwillingness to understand the critical situation.

The moot question is: What is this budget addressed to? What measures are proposed to be initiated to achieve the objectives of economic rejuvenation.

Budget Objectives

The 1992-93 budget carried forward the logic and philosophy of Dr Singh's maiden budget last year which aimed at converting India from a control-bound, inward-looking economy into a market-friendly,

outward-looking one. It was a process of globalisation and re-structuring the economy. The budget delineates three-fold goals: (a) Short-term or immediate objectives which include fiscal discipline and consolidation to contain inflation and reduce the balance of payments deficit; (b) Medium-term objective of high and sustainable growth and (c) long-term objective of promotion of labour-intensive pattern of production, increase in employment and reduction in income and wealth inequalities.

Be it noted that there is no push-button system of achieving any of these goals and no single budget can reach them. All the same, the country must move with despatch in formulation and implementation of the policies, plans and programmes within the parameters of economic reforms.

Measures

Inflation: India has lived with inflation since the outbreak of World War II in 1939. The rich as well as the poor have been victimised alike. The latter have, of course, been hurt the most. Despite the long stay with varying intensity, inflation is despised and the government has pursued anti-inflationary policies to curb its growth and impact on the vulnerable segment of the society, in particular.

When too much money chases too few goods inflation follows. If the prices continue spiralling up without abatement, to bring them under control poses a formidable problem.

The criticism that the Union budget is inflationary is rejected outright by the FM, saying that it is dis-inflationary. What has been done or is proposed to be done to bring about de-acceleration in infla-

tion?

As suggested in the aforesaid definition of inflation the two-pronged strategy to control inflation should hinge on demand management and supply management. Under the first, the major measure taken is reduction in the fiscal deficit from 8.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1990-91 to 6.4 per cent of GDP in 1991-92, to 5 per cent in 1992-93 and further down to 4 per cent in the following year. The government has achieved successfully the primary objective set for 1991-92 as promised to the IMF. This has been achieved by stepping up the total receipts and this trend is expected to continue in the future as well. On the expenditure side, the total expenditure shows a marginal decline of Rs 320 crore in 1991-92, though the non-plan expenditure has increased and the plan expenditure has decreased by Rs 373 crore and Rs 693 crore, respectively. It is a remarkable achievement that all the three variants of deficits—fiscal deficit, budget deficit and revenue deficit—are lower in 1991-92 compared to the previous year. The fall in fiscal deficit results in shrinkage in money supply. Important though for containing inflation, it is not enough. Prof A.M. Khusro, eminent economist, holds the view opposite to Dr Singh's. According to him (Dr Khusro) the economic reforms initiated by the Congress government have seeds of inflation. The liberalisation on the external front and the rupee convertibility will increase the money supply or demand-pull impact will be greater; raw materials and components imported with foreign exchange procured at the market-determined rates, the hike in excise duties and the administered prices will result in cost-push inflation. Whether the pressures on prices so caused would jack up the prices is unpredictable. For, besides the fiscal

deficit declining, the government has many weapons in its armoury to counter inflation. In the supply management strategy, the Public Distribution System (PDS) has the primacy. Intensive efforts are being made to provide edibles at affordable price at the Fair Price Shops. Recently, the government selected 1700 additional blocks in the remote rural areas for inclusion in the PDS network. Successfully implemented, it will go a long way to provide relief to the poor and the weaker section of society.

It may be recalled that the FM has declared that the price decline will take 2-3 years to settle down to a reasonably low level. The most redeeming feature of the economic reforms announced during the last eight months or so is the inflows of foreign exchange. As of February 22, 1992, the accumulation of Forex reserves has touched the Rs 11,424 crore mark as against Rs 2600 crore in early 1991. That has enhanced the manoeuvrability to combat inflation. In view of the changed scenario on the external front, the government has relaxed the import compression measures; there is greater liberalisation in the trade sector; the lending rate of interest is reduced by one percentage point by the banks; and the Statutory Liquidity Ratio has been slashed down from 38.5 per cent to 30 per cent effective 1992-93. These budgetary provisions will help arrest the uptrend in prices and also the stagflation in the industrial sector.

Balance of payments: Next to inflation is the management of BOP. The solution lies not in import compression, as advocated by some, but in a rapid expansion of exports. The shift in emphasis has been facilitated considerably by the substantial increase in Forex reserves.

It needs to be pointed out that the policy change is not out of line with the ideal of self-reliance which in "today's world of integrated global markets cannot be achieved merely by reducing import dependence and insulating the economy from the world". Therefore, to develop a self-reliant Indian economy we need aim at building up the ability to meet all

our import requirements through exports rather than through dependence on aid. This is the essence of the package of economic reform policies which is inscribed into the budget.

Rupee Convertibility: Among the export-oriented budget proposals, the most innovative one is the partial convertibility of rupee on current account. The new system called Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System (LERMS) marks the beginning of the end of the exchange control era. It is a revolutionary step towards globalisation of the Indian economy. It is designed to give a massive boost to exports as well as remittances and attract reverse flow of capital that had flown out of the country. With the introduction of the partial rupee convertibility, the exim scrips are extinct. Partial convertibility will mean a partial devaluation which will have the impact of increasing the export/import prices in rupee terms.

Gold import: To plug forex leakages into illegal channels for illegal import of gold, the budget proposes to allow the Indian returning home (after a stay of six months) and the non-resident Indian import of five kilogram of gold per passenger. An import duty of Rs 450 per 10 gramme payable in foreign exchange would be leviable on such gold imports. This scheme would cut into the gold smuggling estimated at 100-200 tonnes.

Alongside this is the gold bond scheme. Under this gold bonds will be available with a maturity period of 3-5 years and a small interest to the bond holder.

Foreign investment: In pursuance of the liberalised industrial policy, the budget envisages encouragement of the private investment, including the foreign investment, in production, refining and marketing of oil and gas and in the infra-structure sector. The FM has dismissed summarily as "misplaced fears" the concern widely shared that the foreign investment may well prove to be a potential danger to the Indian industry and jeopardise our sovereignty. The government has already cleared foreign investment of Rs 1000 crore and proposals worth Rs 2000 crore will be cleared in March

1992.

The biggest gain, claimed by the government, from the economic reforms—macro-economic adjustment and stabilisation—and the positive response of multilateral financing institutions such as the IMF, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank is the restoration of India's credibility and establishment of order out of economic chaos. As a result, India's high credit rating will be restored soon.

Tax reforms: Simplification and rationalisation of the "fossilised" tax system are the high points of the tax proposals. For tax reforms, great reliance has been placed on the Chelliah Taxation Enquiry Committee report. The philosophy underlying these reforms package is that higher tax yield results from moderately progressive tax system combined with strong enforcement to encourage honest and voluntary tax compliance.

The floor limit for the personal income tax has been raised from Rs 22,000 to Rs 28,000 (which may be enhanced?); higher incomes will be subject to taxation under three slabs with a maximum of 40 per cent on incomes above Rs one lakh. A number of tax exemptions has been withdrawn. The overall effect on the tax payer is higher tax burden. The low tax rates is thus an illusion.

To enlarge the tax base, a presumptive tax system is proposed. Shopkeepers and other retail traders with a turnover of below Rs 5 lakh a year are to pay just Rs 1400 as tax. The government has taken credit for Rs 150 crore as the revenue on that account. This ingenious method will bring into the tax net nearly one million potential tax payers who, in due course, will merge into the main stream of 7 million assessee, at present.

Given the limit to growth condition in direct taxes, the FM has imposed additional excise duties (Rs 2211 crore, net).

Conclusion

The budget has the imprint of professionalism and pragmatism for which it has won greater acclaim and approval than any budget presented since Independence.

India's Stagnant Economy—Less Hope, More Despair

Judged from any angle, that of prices, agriculture or industry, the past few months have been a period of despair and disappointment. The state of crisis is apparently becoming perpetual. The most worrying aspect of the current economic situation remains the inflation. The Government has admitted its failure to check the upward spiral of prices. The poor suffer the most by the price rise.

There has been stagnation in agriculture; the growth rate having been static or at best negligible. Instead of improvement in food production, there has been a 1.5 per cent fall in food production during the past year, despite another good monsoon and satisfactory agricultural output. This is an alarming feature of the state of the economy.

The financial year 1991-92 has proved to be the worst on record in Indian industry. For the first time since 1980-81, industrial production has declined. The reasons for the dismal state of affairs have been the multiple shocks of devaluation, import squeeze, spiralling cost of money, rising costs of imports and severe demand compression caused by inflation and a cutback in government expenditure. In fact the Economic Survey for 1991-92, which is an authentic source of information about the state of the nation's economy, paints a gloomy picture of the industrial scenario. It is feared that the industrial sector might have to face recessionary pressures for some more time. Constraining factors like import compression, tight money policy, fiscal retrenchment and inflationary pressure are still in operation. By mid-March, 1992 inflation had risen by 13 per cent. The prices have been increasing, and with these the cost of living overall has been rising, causing much distress to the poor and the lower middle sections of society. How long will the common man be required to tighten his belt and lead a life of distress and economic hardship? The

total debt burden has also mounted and the end of the process is not in sight. The number of unemployed and under-employed rose to 23 million at the beginning of the Eighth Plan. By 1997 the jobless will increase to about 58 million.

I. Inflation

DR Manmohan Singh, like every Finance Minister before him, promised to check prices and curb the runaway inflation which has been eroding the people's incomes and causing misery all round.

While presenting his maiden budget for 1991-92, he claimed that it was disinflationary. But prices continued to rise despite his claims. Again, he was confident while commending the 1992-93 budget on February 29 this year that it would accelerate the pace of liberalisation and check inflationary trends in the Indian economy. The spiral in prices continues at over 12 per cent, much higher than the Finance Ministry's forecast of 9 per cent. Worse, the chances are that the prices will rise further.

The Finance Minister has kept the word he had given to the World Bank to reduce the budgetary deficit. The budgetary deficit, which was 8.4 per cent in 1990-91, has been brought down to 6.5 per cent in 1991-92 by enforcing financial discipline and cutting down wasteful expenditure. The budgetary deficit in the next year is likely to be Rs 5389 crore, which is close to the Government's target of bringing it down to 5 per cent of the GNP.

Deficit budgets year after year are a cause of inflationary trends. In a note on inflation prepared by the Finance Ministry, concern was expressed over the build-up of inflationary pressures. But confidence was expressed that the structural

reforms in the areas of industry, trade, public sector and the financial system, coupled with strict monetary and fiscal discipline, could curb inflation through imparting dynamism to the growth process and increasing efficiency as well as productivity.

The annual rate of inflation was 13.6 per cent early in December, 1991, compared to 10.6 per cent on the corresponding date in 1990. The current inflation rate is much more "moderate", compared to the 30 per cent per annum in 1974.

What causes concern is that substantial price rise has occurred despite the three bumper harvests in a row and the good prospects for the fourth one. The price rise during the 1991-92 year is due to the hike in food prices (19.3 per cent), minerals (5.1 per cent) and manufactured products (7.5 per cent).

The inflationary build-up is accounted for by the ever-growing fiscal deficits; supply-demand imbalances due to shortfalls in domestic output and import; wage spiral leading to cost-push and demand-pull inflation; and psychosis of inflation. The rise in the procurement prices and the issue prices of foodgrains in the wake of cuts in fertiliser subsidy set the trend in the open market prices. The persistent shortfalls (or stagnation?) in production of pulses led to price escalation. The shortage in domestic output and failure to import edible oils pushed up their prices. Fruit and vegetable prices increased due to market flaws and higher transport and distribution costs following the oil price hike. The higher freight charges and increase in the issue prices of sugar and fertilisers were additional factors.

The twin strategy adopted by the Government to curb inflation comprises squeeze on fiscal and current

account deficits and boost revenues. The Centre recently stepped up the price of some essential commodities such as wheat, rice, sugar and coal. The issue prices of wheat and rice at the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) have been raised to make up for three previous increases in the procurement prices.

II. Agriculture

AGRICULTURE continues to be a key factor in Indian economy. There is, however, no indication in the Union budget of any major effort to reclaim large tracts of waste land or to bring more land under cultivation. The overall budgetary allocation for rural development has been reduced as compared to the allocation in the 1991-92 budget estimates. In the budgetary allocations, the poor who constitute a vast human resource in India, have got a raw deal, except for the food subsidy for the revamped public distribution scheme in 1,700 backward blocks.

Official statistics show that there has been 1.5 per cent fall in food production this year. A slowdown has taken place in the agriculture sector as a whole despite the rise in the production of some cash crops. The seriousness of the situation is emphasised by the fact that Indian agriculture continues to be substantially dependent on monsoon rains. Predictions based on studies of the cyclical pattern of the monsoon suggest that the time has come for another round of low rainfall seasons and perhaps even drought. Government expenditure on construction and maintenance of irrigation projects has been considerably curtailed in the last one year. The Government's investment in agriculture and rural development has been eroded on account of faulty and wayward fiscal policies. At the same time, the prices of agricultural inputs, fertilisers in particular, have sharply risen since the July, 1991, budget.

Although Indian agriculture has grown in the last two decades, the rate of advance has only slightly outpaced the growth of population. Hence, it cannot by any means be concluded that India has achieved food security. The hundreds of mil-

lions of its poor and others, like women, who suffer from relatively small food entitlements are in any case deprived. The agricultural policies currently pursued are basically wrong. If India is to escape the horrifying prospect of repeating the "ship-to-mouth" experience of the 1960s and guard against the kind of food insecurity that characterises the erstwhile Soviet Union, for example, the Government must take immediate steps to consolidate Indian agriculture, sustain its growth through fiscal and other measures and take active steps fully to exploit the agricultural potential in the eastern region. This will require removing institutional bottlenecks by implementing long-delayed land reforms and adequate investments in infrastructure.

III. Worst Year for Industry

THE financial year 1991-92 proved to be the worst year on record in over a decade for Indian industry. This is admitted in the Union Government's official reports. Reeling under the multiple shocks of devaluation, import squeeze, spiralling cost of money, rising costs of imports and severe demand compression caused by inflation and a cutback in government expenditure, industrial production has declined, for the first time since 1980-81.

The Economic Survey for 1991-92 paints a gloomy picture of the industrial scenario. The industrial sector is likely to face recessionary pressures for some more time to come. There are several constraining factors like import compression, tight money policy, fiscal retrenchment and inflationary pressure. Some of them, particularly the strict monetary and fiscal discipline, which are basic elements of the macro-economic adjustment programme initiated by the Government are still in operation.

With the exception of just two groups and non-metallic mineral products, which together account for under 5 per cent of industrial production, all other groups have shown either decelerated growth or sharp negative trends.

The electrical machinery segment has been one of the worst hit with the growth rate dropping from 22.4 per cent in 1990-91 to 18.1 per cent in the first eight months of 1991-92 for which data are available.

Recession in the textile sector appears to be nearing the end, though this may be a superficial view. The percentages have improved, but only in relative terms. From a negative growth of minus 32 per cent recorded in 1990-91, the growth rate in the current year is minus 2.9 per cent.

The decline in industrial production becomes even more evident, if one takes the data for comparable periods, *viz.*, April-November, 1990-91 and April-November, 1991-92. The growth in food products production has dropped from 17.1 per cent in 1990-91 to 1.5 per cent in 1991-92. Overall, the entire manufacturing sector's growth rate slumped from 11.5 per cent to minus 2.3 per cent in this period, reflecting sharply increased sensitivity of the industrial sector to macro-economic changes.

Production fall in some product areas has been severe. The entire man-made fibre segment—nylon, filament yarn, polyester fibre, viscose yarn—has shown a decline of over 5 per cent in production during April-November, 1991 as has the entire automobile sector with the exception of passenger cars.

Inflation and tight money, added to the import squeeze and higher cost of imports on account of devaluation and steep margin money requirements imposed by RBI, have hit the consumer durables industry the hardest. From a growth rate of 10.9 per cent in 1990-91 and 16.9 per cent during April-November, 1991-92, the growth rate plunged to minus 10.1 per cent in the year 1991-92.

IV. Excessive Expenditure

OUR is a government that has been spending too much and certainly living beyond its means. Successive governments have been spending more money than they could afford to, leading to a situation where they had to resort to increasing levels of deficit financing, or printing paper money.

The addition to the economy every year of large sums of paper money has been an important reason for rising prices. Apart from the hardship which rising prices caused, they also made imports cheaper and hence more attractive, and made exports unattractive as well as difficult because Indian prices were higher. The result was a growing trade deficit, a serious depletion of India's foreign exchange reserves and a situation where the country would have had to stop importing vital commodities like petroleum, edible oils, fertilisers and modern machinery.

The only solution left was what the Government did last July—devaluation—reduce the value of the Indian rupee in relation to foreign currencies to make Indian-made goods cheaper in the world market and improve prospects for Indian exports.

The devaluation has also made imports expensive, and unattractive

to that extent, in comparison with Indian products. This means a boost for Indian industry and hence greater employment opportunities. So, while some hardship is involved in the short-term because imports have become costlier, that is a price which the public is having to pay for the wrong policies of the past. The prospects in the long term have improved.

There is yet another way, besides taxation and deficit financing, in which the Government has been raising money from the public. It simply increases the prices of the public sector produce like coal, steel and electricity, when it finds that it cannot find other funds with which to subsidise the losses of the public sector.

Administered Prices: Whatever the reasons (including political meddling) for these losses, the public is forced to pay for the sins of the public sector through the escalation of the prices of a wide range of products and services which use coal,

electricity and other products whose administered prices the Government raises. The public is also paying the price today of the Government's not raising some of these administered prices earlier, and allowing the profitability of these public services to suffer. Populist policies help politicians in the short term but the common people have to pay the price, sooner or later.

V. States' Fiscal Crisis

THE determination being shown by the Centre to curb its fiscal deficit and restore budgetary balance is not percolating down to all State governments. With the revenue deficit of both the Centre and the State governments exceeding Rs 20,000 crore, the goals of fiscal prudence cannot be achieved by the Central Government alone, even though it is the principal culprit. The Ninth Finance Commission had asked the States to phase out their



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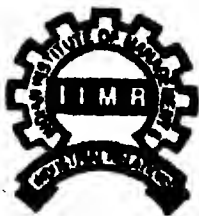
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revenue deficits by 1994-95. This was deemed necessary as rising deficits had pushed the States' debt and interest payments to unsustainable levels. While the National Development Council meeting held in December reiterated this objective, very few States have taken the necessary follow-up action. States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Kerala have made a beginning to set their fiscal house in order. Bihar has decided to reduce a number of government posts and close down boards and corporations which have been incurring recurring losses. Kerala has also announced a move to cut non-development expenditure by 10 per cent. The latest to join the list is Uttar Pradesh, which has ordered a five per cent cut in non-technical government jobs. While it is premature to judge the impact of these decisions, as the gap between goals and performance has tended to be wide, the need for other States to act in this direction cannot be overstressed.

However, the gravity of the States' fiscal crisis is such that much more than chopping a few jobs or telephone connections will be necessary. Apart from gross overstaffing, the root of the States' fiscal malaise lies in their inability to earn even a low return on their investments in power, transport and irrigation, with losses in these areas now adding up to a truly colossal burden. Despite repeated warnings by Finance Commissions and States' own promises to take corrective action, little has been done. For instance, although the States agreed to raise the unremunerative price of power charged to farmers some months back, they have not acted on their promise. States must realise that their budgets can no longer sustain political pricing. Unless they do so, fiscal gains in New Delhi may well be significantly reduced by profligacy in State capitals.

Disparities distort Scene: Economic disparities continue to distort the overall scene. It is not only Bihar that feels aggrieved about inter-State disparity. West Bengal too long, and Orissa under Mr Biju Patnaik, have often complained about discrimination against the eastern

States. It has been acknowledged that one of the major factors behind regionalism in the north-east has been a sense of having been discriminated against.

VI. Massive Debt Burden

FEW problems are bigger than India's public debt (what the Government owes various people and institutions). This totals as much as Rs 317,000 crore and the interest on this debt is "killing" the Government. The biggest single chunk of the debt consists of Rs 78,000 crore worth of bonds, held almost entirely by banks.

A management consultant has come up with an idea for wiping out the whole bond debt of Rs 78,000 crore. With the large sum the Government has been creating public sector assets, notably shares of public sector companies. But the interest on the Government's borrowings far exceeds the dividends it gets from public sector companies. One obvious way out is to sell some of its low yielding assets and use the proceeds to retire its high interest debt.

The dividend yield in today's market conditions is hardly 2 per cent, while the interest on government bonds averages almost 11 per cent. Public sector shares appreciate in value while bonds do not, but the only way to capture the appreciation is to sell some shares, thus encashing the capital gain. The question is: why not sell Rs 78,000 crore of public sector shares in one go, and use it to wipe out the entire Government debt on account of bonds?

Earlier, people doubted whether investors would really be interested in public shares, but today, in the unofficial market, people are willing to pay up to Rs 100 for a ten-rupee share of SAIL and Rs 1,000 for a share of Bharat Refineries. Another quoted public sector company in the same line of business, Cochin Refineries, has a market price of Rs 2,800 today.

At this rate, the market value of the public sector could well be as large as India's GNP, that is around Rs 550,000 crore. So the Government can certainly retire all its outstanding bonds by selling a fraction of public

sector shares.

But how will investors produce Rs 78,000 crore to buy such a huge share offering? Nobody has much liquid cash, and the credit squeeze means it is not possible or desirable to divert bank credit for this purpose. Besides, such huge sales will crowd out new public issues of shares needed for sustaining industrial growth.

It would be wise to be cautious, and sell shares in a phased manner. Perhaps in the first phase no more than Rs 5,000 crore of shares should be offered. The response to this will give some idea of what modifications may be desirable. After that, additional shares can be sold depending on how quickly it seems the market can absorb additional shares.

The Government has not stopped at increasing the tax burden on the economy, printing paper money and raising the administered prices of goods. It has also resorted to borrowing money.

In 1980-81 the Government had outstanding debts of Rs 57,947 crore. As it borrowed more to pay for rising expenditure levels, its debts soared to an estimated Rs 2,97,413 crore by 1991-92. In 1991-92 it has paid an estimated Rs 2,740 crore as interest on its borrowings, compared with 2,604 crore in 1980-81, or over 10 and-a-half times. The interest payments worked out to nearly a fifth of the Government's total expenditure in 1991-92.

VII. Public Sector—White Elephant

THE all-round stagnation of the economy was also reflected in the public sector. The overall net profit of public enterprises fell sharply by about 38 per cent from Rs 3,788.87 crore in 1989-90 to Rs 2,367.74 crore in 1990-91, showing a decrease of Rs 1,421.13 crore even as the Government took steps to bring about structural changes in this vital sector. The 1990-91 public enterprises survey attributed the fall to the low production to crude oil, rise in cost of wages and other inputs, the Gulf crisis and general poor economic situation during the year.

The survey said the Government had disinvested a part of the shares in 30 selected Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in favour of public sector investment institutions and mutual funds. The number of enterprises signing memoranda of understanding is expected to go up from 23 in 1990-91 to 130 in 1992-93.

The production and services enterprises together contributed to the total decrease of Rs 1421.13 crore in net profits. Petroleum, steel, coal and lignite, heavy engineering transportation and telecommunication services were the major sectors contributing to the decreased profits. On the other hand power, industrial development, and technological consultancy services and trading and marketing showed substantial favourable variation compared to the previous year.

A detailed analysis of the enterprise-wise profitability reveals that during 1990-91, 124 enterprises earned a net profit of Rs 5431.42

crore, compared with the net profit of Rs 5750.47 crore earned by 131 enterprises during the previous year, showing a decline of Rs 319 crore.

The losses of loss-making enterprises have also increased. In 1989-90, 99 enterprises incurred a net loss of Rs 1961.60 crore which went upto Rs 3063.68 crore incurred by 109 enterprises during 1990-91.

In absolute terms, the gross profits of public enterprises have shown an increase of Rs 737.76 crore—6.94 per cent.

In terms of overall net profit, the picture was rather worse. From a net profit of Rs 445 crore in 1981-82 the PSUs had recorded an overall net profit of only Rs 2368 crore in 1990-91. About 15 enterprises, including the Steel Authority of India, the Indian Oil Corporation and the National Thermal Power Corporation registered an improvement in profitability from Rs 1399.16 crore in 1989-90 to Rs 2112.80 crore in 1990-91. But the top 10 loss-making

enterprises accounted for 56.43 per cent of the total loss of Rs 3063.68 crore incurred by 109 enterprises from 1990-91.

VIII. More IMF Loans

THE Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao stated on March 21 that the country would go for extended funding facilities for a further instalment of loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The economic situation was better now, he said, and hoped the NRIs would not be so hesitant to invest. The country would have to tighten the belt and stop wasteful expenditure before there was further liberalisation of the economy. Efforts would have to be made to see that the priceline did not go out of hand.

Foreign investment approvals have been on the increase following the announcement of the new industrial policy in July, 1991. Foreign investment approved during the post-policy period (August 91-

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February 92) are more than 13 times the investment approved in the corresponding period in 1990-91—Rs 1,141.84 crore against a meagre Rs 84.57 crore. There are two significant aspects of the foreign investment approvals—one, the bulk of the investment approved (80 per cent) were in high priority sectors and the automatic approval scheme introduced in the new policy was proving to be attractive.

An Industry Ministry analysis shows that foreign investments approved in calendar year 1991 are more than four times the investments approved in 1990—Rs 534.11 crore against Rs 128.32 crore.

The total number of foreign collaboration approvals accorded in the post-policy period are 893 compared to 332 in the corresponding period in 1990-91. The collaboration approvals involving foreign equity approved in the post-policy period are 309 compared to 92.

Under the automatic procedures for approvals of foreign investment, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cleared investment of Rs 345.74 crore within a short period of five-and-a-half months from September 16, 1991 to February 29, 1992. This accounts for nearly one-third of the total foreign investment approved.

After the announcement of the new scheme for automatic permission for technology transfer arrangement, RBI has given approval for nearly 300 proposals (including 60 cases involving equity participation as well) up to February-end arrangement in respect of high priority industries.

The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) which is entrusted with the task of taking up special foreign investment proposals for clearance, has so far cleared 10 proposals involving an investment of more than Rs 500 crore. The Government has expressed the hope that the

flow of investment would further pick up in the months to come. More than 90 per cent of the investment proposals approved would actually materialise during 1992-93.

IX. Economic Challenge

A leading economist and political leader, Mr C. Subramaniam, has made an in-depth study of the crisis that the nation is facing today. He has traced its roots and made meaningful suggestions. He holds that Dr Manmohan Singh satisfies almost all qualifications he had suggested in his letter to the President for a Finance Minister. But the abilities of Dr Manmohan Singh notwithstanding, one cannot resist saying that he seems to be a Minister in a hurry. He has failed to read the pulse of 45 crore Indians living below the poverty line.

This hapless lot, mostly illiterate, is concerned not with Dr Manmohan Singh's Fund-Bank politics—privatisation, the import of the foreign technology, the invitation to multinationals and so forth—but with the rising cost of "dal roti". Each of the professor's prescriptions, from the hike in the petrol and LPG prices to the increase in railway freight and fares, has hit the common man.

Citing the appeal made by Sardar Patel to civil servants to make some sacrifice for the nation, Mr C. Subramaniam now urges the country to bear with the awesome situation for three years. But can those living below the poverty line do it for this period? Those who live in luxury cannot fully realise the problems of the poor.

Mr C. Subramaniam has wisely discussed various aspects affecting the economy. He suggests that a thorough research should be conducted on foreign technology in order to become self-sufficient. This is essential because usually foreign countries export technology which

has become redundant for them. No developed country will ever export its latest technology.

Strengthening of the infrastructure in the spheres of power, communications and transport is also essential to increase productivity. In this context, one aspect seems to have escaped the notice of the former Finance Minister—infrastructure of quality control. Some of our consignments have been rejected by certain countries. Within the country, people often have to buy sub-standard goods. The most important aspect affecting productivity is labour. The Government must abolish "labour lordism". It should establish trade boards in place of trade unions on which adequate representation should be given to workers.

Liberalisation Paying off: The measures of liberalisation recently taken, including the gold import scheme and the partial convertibility of the rupee—seem to be yielding dividends, as the Finance Ministry expected. The proof of this fact lies in the fact that the country's foreign exchange reserves have now risen to a record level of Rs 13,100 crore. Moreover, the strengthening of the balance of payments position which started early in January, 1992, has continued and has actually gained further strength because of the liberalisation of the exchange rate mechanism announced in this year's budget speech.

It is also significant that for the first time during the year 1991-92 the country achieved a trade surplus early in the year 1992. The trade surplus was primarily due to import compression. The downward trend in imports witnessed during the year 1991-92 continues, according to the reports received so far. According to experts, it would not be long before inflation, by making exports more expensive, would erode the gains which exporters were expecting from devaluation of the rupee.

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Argumentative Questions on Social and Economic Problems

GOVT LAWLESSNESS AND TERRORISM

Q. "Government lawlessness is no answer to terrorism." Give arguments For and Against this view.

Ans In tackling militants and terrorists, sometimes the police indulges in excesses. In the earnestness to achieve results, most policemen forget that everyone, whatever his or her ideology and methods adopted to achieve the goal, has human rights which must not be disregarded by any wing of the administration. But overzealous policemen, in their endeavour to please the wielders of political power (the politicians), use the gun freely and also resort to physical torture of suspects whenever they get the opportunity. The result is that some excesses are committed. Are these excesses justifiable in the context of the reckless acts, including mass assassinations, of the terrorists?

Arguments in Favour

1. There is no excuse for acts of downright terrorism, but there is no defence for resort to excesses by the police in the process of tackling this menace. A militant, a terrorist or other lawbreaker is, after all, a human being. His basic rights should not be violated, unless he is declared a criminal.

2. The policemen are guardians of the law; if they act in an unethical and illegal manner, they themselves become guilty of action which flout all rules of good conduct. People must not forget that the police have a crucial role to play in the protection of human rights.

3. Deaths of suspects and alleged criminals during their periods of detention in police stations and

court-trials are reported now and then. These deaths, if due to natural causes, cannot be blamed on the police, but when, as has occasionally been reported from Kashmir Valley, the causes are police excesses, these bring discredit to the guardians of law.

4. India has been accused of violating human rights through the police and other security forces. Amnesty International and other human rights organisations have named India as one of the countries where human rights are being violated, notably by the police and other security personnel.

5. The police are the coercive arm of the State and it is very unfortunate that its powers are at time exercised arbitrarily, unjustly and in total disregard of the human rights of the victims. Bullet for Bullet must not form a part of State policy for fighting terrorism.

Arguments Against the View

1. While it may be true that the police sometimes resorts to objectionable methods in tackling crime and criminals, but the fact remains that in dealing with terrorists who murder people recklessly it cannot be expected to show mercy. If the police are gentle and soft while getting confessional statements and do not succeed in tracing crime and getting the guilty persons punished, the Government, that is the executive, will blame it and describe the force as inefficient and ineffective.

2. Many people would agree that when terrorists show no mercy to innocent people, how can they expect the police to treat them fairly and humanely? Murderers of innocent

men, women and children must be dealt with sternly and without mercy. In fact, terrorism cannot be tackled by adopting gentle methods. When an act of terrorism is established, no mercy should be shown to those who do havoc and seek to shake the very foundations of the State by creating conditions which make peaceful administration and enforcement of justice impossible.

3. Quite frequently, the real cause of excesses is the political pressure on the police to apprehend certain people and adopt ruthless methods. It is the politicisation of the police force that is often to blame. The wielders of political power exploit the police to take revenge against some elements. Thus there is manipulation of the police power for ulterior ends.

4. Generally, the police are overworked; the strain on them is heavy. Cases are known of policemen who are required by the Government to work for 16 hours a day. Their terms of service are wholly unsatisfactory, and so also are their living conditions and emoluments. Very often the battle is unequal; the terrorists possess sophisticated weapons while the police weapons are outdated.

5. Those who examine the cases dispassionately, from the standpoint of maintaining law and order—a most important factor—will agree that third degree methods and harsh treatment of militants are fully justified.

6. The remedy for the flaw implied in the view is proper comprehensive compulsory course of education in human rights. Each policeman must be made to realise

that nobody is above the law and it is the duty of the police to be loyal to the Constitutions and the laws of the land. In dealing with attacks by terrorists the police should observe certain norms of conduct. The police should not make a mockery of the Rule of Law which forms the basis of the Constitution.

7. As for killings of terrorists in "fake" encounters, how can the police be blamed when the fault lies in the judicial procedures which insist on the production of firm evidence by the prosecuting agencies. In many cases, eye-witnesses are not available and the choice is between eliminating a danger to society and strict observance of the law.

NUCLEAR BOMB FOR HUMAN RIGHTS?

Q. "Nuclear weapons can also be utilised to ensure protection of human rights." In what context has this assertion been made? Give arguments For and Against it.

Ans. Nuclear bombs, along with the capability to deliver the weapon at the selected spot to maximise their destructive power, are generally designed as deterrents or as means to ensure adequate defence of a country's national borders. But a new twist to the issue was given by the Pakistan Defence Minister, Mr Chous Ali Shah in March this year when he cited "increased human rights violations" in Kashmir as a factor which made Pakistan go nuclear. According to an Islamabad English daily, "The News", the Pakistan Defence Minister does not subscribe to the frequently expressed view of international donor agencies favouring defence cuts by developing countries following the end of the Cold War. The Pakistan Defence Ministry spokesmen assert that their country has to be in a high state of defence preparedness in the light of what they describe as "Indian expansionist designs". Actually, India has no such designs.

Arguments in Favour of the View

1. The nuclear threat has been used by several large countries possessing the dreaded bomb to hold out threats of strong action—countries which defy the norms of international conduct. The Nuclear bomb is the

extreme "remedy" but it is bound to work. Extreme situations demand extreme remedies, that is, when nothing else bears fruit. It was the N-bomb that shortened World War II and saved further losses.

2. Pakistani officials also claim that their country has acquired the nuclear capability and technology for maintaining a "balance of power" in the region. "But we will use it for peaceful purposes", he declared. A balance of power is vital for maintaining the status quo and for adequate protection of the basic rights of nations and of course of individuals constituting the society concerned.

3. The Government of Pakistan has also claimed that increased violation of human rights in "Occupied Kashmir" had forced Pakistan to go nuclear to safeguard its own security. He contended that India had continued with its nuclear programme since exploding a nuclear device at Pokharan in 1974.

4. According to the Islamabad spokesmen, the US attitude of turning "a deaf ear" to its plea had left Pakistan with no option except to go nuclear. If the U.S. becomes generous and extends full economic and military aid, Pakistan would not require nuclear weapons to protect itself and their people's rights; so runs Pakistan's claim.

Arguments Against the View

1. If we shed our prejudices, we shall reach the conclusion that human rights are destroyed and not protected by manufacturing a nuclear bomb. A nuclear bomb destroys everything around us, including human beings, and the assets we have built over the years and on which we rely so much with full confidence.

2. The very basis of Pakistan's arguments and assumptions is wrong. It is wholly incorrect to contend that the violations of human rights in Kashmir have been increasing in recent months. On the contrary, India's effort all along has been to ensure that the people's basic rights are not violated by the security forces and the civil administration in Jammu and Kashmir.

3. If a nuclear bomb is used by Pakistan, it would destroy in a flash all human beings, including the rulers and the ruled, in addition to all forms of life within a wide range. The bomb makes no distinction between those who deprive others of their human rights (even if we assume, for the sake of argument, that human rights are indeed being violated and that the violators are Pakistan's political rivals).

4. Human rights are indeed being destroyed systematically in Kashmir Valley and the adjacent areas not by any institution of the Government of India but by the militants' organisations actively backed by the Islamabad authorities themselves and also those in power in what is called "Azad Kashmir". Even so, the Government of India has not thought even for a moment that a nuclear bomb attack should be made to save the people from being harassed and oppressed in the Valley.

5. On March 20 this year, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian Prime Minister, assured the country (and also the international community) that the Union Government was giving the topmost priority to the Kashmir question and, in particular, the restoration of democratic process in the troubled State. The Centre intends to hold elections in Kashmir as early as possible in order that the people may be able to elect, and maintain in office, a government of their choice. It is the on-going militancy that is posing a problem in the early restoration of all political rights in the region. The process of restoring basic human rights in the occupied territories is being hindered by Pakistan itself by rendering sustained and extensive assistance to the terrorists who flout basic human rights.

US SUPREMACY IN S.-E. ASIA

Q. Step by step the US navy is establishing itself in the Indian Ocean, next door to India, and the proposed joint naval exercises by the Indian and US navies will facilitate the process. Give argu-

ments For and Against this statement.

Ans. All evidence points to the fact that the US is now well set to keep a watch over the Indian Ocean region and will confirm its role of being the only giant power. In the next few weeks it is proposed that the naval forces of India and the USA will hold joint naval exercises. Foreign Secretary K N Datta agreed to the plan during his March '92 visit to Washington. Fears have been expressed in certain quarters that such naval coordination will, in due course, lead to stronger Indo-US military ties. Are such military ties desirable in the context of India's assertions that the Indian Ocean must remain free of international tensions and it must also be kept as a zone of peace?

Arguments in Favour of the View

1. The visits of US military, especially naval commanders with their teams to New Delhi and the trips of senior Indian military officers to the US are proof that the military officials of the two countries are interacting with one another, obviously with the full approval of the Government of India. This process is gradually being speeded up.

2. There is already an army steering committee; in fact, there are two committees, one the naval steering committee and the other the army steering committee formed as a result of the Kicklighten proposals. The steering committee had a meeting early this year and has been pursuing confidence building measures between the two nations.

3. By fully cooperating with the world's mightiest power in some military matters, India has virtually made nonsense of its policy of maintaining peace in the Indian Ocean and of seeking a zone of peace there. By holding joint naval exercises with the US, whatever the official explanations, India would also render the doctrine of non-alignment meaningless.

4. India has failed to see through the US plan for supremacy in South and S.-E. Asia. The Government has also failed to realise that the US has drawn up a subtle scheme of new

strategic perceptions. There is the US Central Command (CENTCOM) and the Pacific Command, a part of whose "jurisdiction" is the India's adjacent area. As part of its changed perceptions, the US has established its tactical advance headquarters at Bahrain. Most of its heavy military equipment has been placed in Saudi Arabia. A massive military complex has been established near Riyadh at a cost of 13 billion dollars. This complex is intended to provide military control and intelligence gathering facilities for the Central Command. The US views itself as the strongest maritime world power with no rival after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Arguments Against the View

1. It is dangerous in the modern world to leave a vacuum in the international arena. The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which was in a way the successor of the U.S.S.R., has not been able to establish itself as a strong military bloc because of internal dissensions and rivalries. Therefore, the US had to replace its lost military bases and it is only natural that it should spread its wings and its political and military influence.

2. It must be noted that the US influence has lately been decreasing in the region because of the new sense of independence among certain States. Its permanent facilities in the Philippines are to be wound up in two years.

3. The US can help to play a stabilising role in a confusing situation. We must not forget that the ASEAN countries, which include Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines and Brunei, have considerable rivalries. By gradually reasserting its influence the US is playing a useful role. Peace in the Eastern region is in the US and world interest.

4. India does not stand to lose anything by jointly holding naval exercises with the US in the Indian Ocean. In fact, our country's navy will gain through the professional expertise and experience of the U.S. military units in sea warfare.

5. There is also the China factor. Steadily, China has been establishing itself as a naval power in the eastern region without holding out any threats or declaring its hegemonic interests. It already supplies armaments to 14 countries of the region. True, the US also gains in influence and experience but that does not spell danger to our area.

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ECONOMIC SCENE

Convertibility of Rupee

Q. What exactly is partial convertibility of rupee and how is it going to benefit the economy?

Ans. The convertibility of rupee or, as it is termed, the Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System (LERMS) is but an extension of the exim scrip initiated in July 1991 in the wake of trade liberalisation. The exim scrips stood abolished from the date the convertibility of the rupee came into force.

Objectives: The basic objective of the LERMS is to achieve the demand-supply equilibrium of external transactions through the market mechanism rather than through the RBI.

With the liberalisation of trade and industry, the convertibility of the rupee was inevitable. In fact, it is a logical corollary of the abolition of the old regime of controls, regulations and licences. Under the old system, the balance between the exports and the imports was established by resort to their regulation by the government or the RBI. The result was persistent disequilibrium or adverse balance of payments for years. The economic reforms recently introduced have sought to revolutionise the scenario, distance the role of the State and bring to the fore the operation of the market forces—demand, supply and unfettered competition in the world market.

The purpose of the LERMS is to give a massive boost to exports in order to correct the chronic negative balance of payments; to increase the inflow of remittances from the Indians working abroad; and to reverse the flow of capital that had left the country many years ago.

Mechanism: Under the LERMS, dual exchange rate policy has been adopted. Alongside the official ex-

change rate determined by the RBI, there would be the market-determined exchange rate which, actually, is NOT decided by the open market but by the Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI) in consultation with a group of banks on each working day.

The official exchange rate will apply to only 40 per cent of the receipts under the current transactions and the free market rate to the balance of 60 per cent. All the receipts will be surrendered to the authorised dealers. The RBI may buy the foreign exchange at the official rate from the foreign exchange dealers or a bank. Out of the 60 per cent 15 per cent may be kept in the foreign currency account of the recipient of remittances or export earnings while the rest 45 per cent must be sold at a market-determined rate to an authorised dealer.

The foreign exchange obtained by the RBI at the official rate will be meant exclusively for meeting the requirements of the government and the essential commodity imports. The RBI will sell forex to authorised dealers at the official rate, if need arises.

Partial convertibility of the rupee is only a first step to tackle the problems besetting the external front. The FM has set March 1993 as the deadline for full convertibility for the current account transactions and another year or March 1994 for transactions on capital account. He has given partial respectability to rupee and is anxious to promote it further to full respectability.

Impact: Partial convertibility of the rupee is, in a way, devaluation of the Indian currency equivalent to the difference between the market exchange rate and the official exchange rate. The official exchange rate of a US dollar is Rs 25.88 as against the

free market exchange rate of Rs 29-30, that is at a premium of 15 per cent. In other words, the dollar value of a rupee in the free market is below the official rate by a margin of 15 per cent. This implies that imports from the hard currency areas would be costlier though for the exports earnings of between 45 and 60 per cent the realisation in rupee terms would be 15 per cent higher.

Under the LERMS, the entitlement of exporters doubles to 60 per cent compared to 30 per cent in the case of exim scrips. The enhanced receipts earn a profit.

Costlier import inputs would raise the cost of the product and push up the prices, particularly where the product is import intensive.

The LERMS has given a knock to the hawala market as the difference between the rupee value of the officially remitted dollar and the one channelled through the hawala trade has narrowed down considerably and the pre-budget profit incentive for illegal remittances has disappeared. Not only this. The smuggling of gold through the hawala market has also suffered a setback because the illegal transactions made earlier have been diverted to legal import of gold.

In short, the partial convertibility of the rupee is a step towards globalisation which is the central objective of the macro-economic reforms.

Tax Reforms

Q. Write a short note on the reforms in the Indian tax system recommended recently.

Ans. The tax system in India has gathered enough flab over the years. The committees and commissions constituted to make it an effective instrument to "pluck the goose with the least squealing" and, at the same

time, raise a bumper crop of revenue to fill the government kitty have, not unoften, ended in a fiasco. Ceaseless efforts are, however, always, on to perfect the tax system and conform it with the basic canons of taxation: equity, convenience, certainty, economy.

The present Congress government at the Centre constituted a high-powered five-member Taxation Reforms Committee under the chairmanship of Dr Raja J. Chelliah. Its report was tabled in the current budget session of the Parliament.

According to the summary of the report available, the guiding principles of the tax reforms are that the "tax system and its burden must be acceptable to the potential tax payers". Though primarily it is a psychological principle, it has a great economic significance. Acceptance of the tax reforms and the tax burden involved lends guarantee to their effective enforcement and better tax compliance. Both are essential to reap a rich harvest of revenue.

Accordingly, the Chelliah committee has recommended a moderately progressively tax system. It subscribes to the view that the lower tax rates are more productive in terms of the tax yield than the higher tax rates are. It has, therefore, suggested enhancement of exemption of personal income tax from Rs 22,000 to Rs 28,000; only three slabs for higher income brackets: 20 per cent tax on incomes between Rs 28,000 and Rs 50,000; 27.5 per cent on incomes ranging between Rs 50,000 and Rs 200,000; and 40 per cent on income exceeding Rs 200,000. The recommendations have been accepted by the Union government with minor alterations.

Simultaneously, the committee has suggested withdrawal of several concessions available under the income tax Act. This too has been accepted by the Finance Minister. The economic logic of the committee's recommendations is clear and convincing, too. Savings should be for investment and capital formation and not for tax breaks. They also reduce the tax revenue which the government badly needs at the mo-

ment.

Economic rationality, simplicity, stability and elasticity of the tax system are the other recommendations. Indexation of the cost/value of assets, scheme of presumptive taxation applicable to traders/manufacturers with a turnover of Rs 3-5 lakh and switch-over to *ad valorem* excise duty to replace the existing specific duty system (barring some items) are illustrative of these principles. The report disapproves *ad hoc* changes in the taxes as they tend to undermine rationality and re-introduce complications.

Efficient administration of the tax system is emphasised by the committee. The power of granting exemption from the excise duties are recommended to be withdrawn. The tax reforms should be fully or nearly revenue neutral in their totality.

Exit Policy a 'Must'

Q. "An exit policy is an integral part of a wider initiative aimed at achieving a more efficient deployment of labour." How would you like to tackle the labour problem in post-economic reforms scenario?

Ans. The re-structuring of the economy India has embarked upon during the last eight to nine months has given rise to the critical problem of labour affected by it. As it is, the re-structuring phase is expected to last for two to four years. During this period, the employment market may be disrupted and depressed. Thereafter employment opportunities would expand rapidly. The transition from the crisis to a state of high growth path would not be without a price: unemployment. The increase in unemployment worsens the already grave situation in respect of the army of unemployed population in India. The government announced in the last year's budget the establishment of a National Renewal Fund. By now, a massive sum of Rs 2200 has been raised for this Fund. Out of this Rs 500 crore would be spent on weaker sections to provide a security net. It is purported to provide for training and re-deployment of labour affected by the economic reforms.

It bears re-iteration that there

should be no procrastination about the formulation and implementation of the exit policy, whatever the odds, if we have to stay the course of economic reforms chartered by the government.

Failure to resolve the problem of surplus labour in the organised or the unorganised sector, will "saddle the Indian manufacturers with a crippling disadvantage and ensure de-industrialisation." The exit policy confronts the organised labour and it is inconceivable that any consensus will be reached between the government and the labour force. The Prime Minister will have to grasp this nettle firmly, otherwise his entire reform package will be jeopardised. It is no use shying away from it day after day.

The rationale for the new economic policy is that all resources including labour must be utilized efficiently and to the optimum. The resources employed in units of the lowest productivity and least competitiveness must be shifted to units of high productivity and competitive capability. The financial resources which are scarcer cannot be dumped into sick public sector units. To keep fresh money pumping into them for their revival is to bypass the lessons of our past experiences. We cannot spend our way to prosperity. The sick units should be identified and targeted for sale. The workforce laid off may be trained and re-deployed. If this approach is unacceptable to a worker, he may be given compensation.

Prima facie it all sounds reasonable. But will the labour accept it lying? Will it not brew up agitation for which they can find enough fuel at the moment?

For the workers in the public sector units closed down golden handshake approach is suggested. They may be provided a monthly income to meet the basic sustenance or given a lumpsum compensation.

It needs no laboured argument that shedding of excess labour would help the public sector enterprises to increase economic surpluses and thereby augment the revenues which would help support poverty-alleviation programmes and employment in rural areas.

DESCRIPTIVE QUESTIONS

The following are answers to the questions put in the B.S.R.B. (Bangalore) Agricultural Extension Officers examination held on November 3, 1991.

We thank Mr Ariabandhu Behera of Vani Vihar, Mr Binod Kumar Dalee of Bhubaneswar and Mr Rajkamal Jeph of New Delhi for sending a copy of the question paper to us.

Dowry Deaths

Q. 1. In spite of the legislations, dowry deaths seem to be happening in India often.

Give various possible reasons, at least three, for this situation.

Ans. It is quite true that even though several laws have been passed by Parliament in order to check dowry deaths, the evil continues. Young brides are still being burnt alive or they are virtually compelled to commit suicide because of their inability to meet the endless demands of their in-laws, especially the mother-in-law and the husband. Several factors account for this tragic phenomenon.

First, there is the apparently insatiable greed of the in-laws for cash and various types of articles which, they think, it is their right to obtain from the bride's parents. When the demands are conveyed by the bride to her parents, the latter (unless they belong to very rich families), find themselves helpless. Unable to bear the situation arising from these demands and greatly upset over the sorry plight of her parents, the bride kills herself. Thus hundreds of women fall victims to the circumstances. They are unable to stand the taunts and the derisive remarks made by their in-laws.

Second, when the bride expresses her inability (because of her parents' poor financial position) to bring the cash or goods demanded, the mother-in-law, with the connivance of some other members of the family, decides to burn the young

woman alive, generally by pouring kerosene over her and applying a match-stick to her crumpled and tied body. The victim's cries for pity and mercy fall on deaf ears.

Third, a good part of the blame lies on the modern consumer culture which prompts mothers-in-law, including the educated ones, to demand more and more consumer goods—modern conveniences such as motor-cars, scooters, fridges, TV sets and V.C.R.s.

Fourth, the enforcement of anti-dowry laws and directives is very poor, with the result that there are very few cases of conviction by the courts. Clever lawyers manage to find some loopholes in the evidence in bride-burning; in fact, in the absence of eye-witnesses of the crime the courts do not convict and sentence the culprits to a term of imprisonment. A series of appeals in the higher courts often lead to acquittal. Of course the dead victims of dowry death cases cannot speak. Those members of the greedy in-laws' family who are parties to the burning process, keep their mouths closed; after all no one wants a jail term. Measures need to be taken to eliminate the loopholes in the laws so as to make them really effective. The tragedy of the situation is heightened by the fact that bride burning prevails even in educated middle classes and urban centres, especially in U.P. and Delhi.

Vocational Education

Q. 2. Some people feel that vocational education is the only answer to the question of unemployment.

Explain your position in regard to the above statement by giving examples from your own experiences, reading or knowledge.

Ans. Millions of people in this country are unemployed because they are untrained and have not received adequate training in any

vocation or professional. Many jobs can be had but unless the unemployed people are given vocational education they are not fit to be employed. There is mass illiteracy; whatever education has been imparted to youth is in countless cases totally inadequate and is merely bookish and theoretical. What is needed—and urgently—is vocational education and technical training, so as to equip jobless people with the requisite technical qualifications so that they are fit for employment in various professions. The irony of the situation is that we have men without jobs and jobs without men. A very large proportion of the annual output of our colleges and universities is not only unemployed but unemployable. In recent years, several institutions, including polytechnics, have been started by the Government and these impart vocational and professional education which enables the requisite training for getting jobs. Vocational education—training in different types of professions—makes the young men and women fit for various types of jobs. Actually, there is no dearth of opportunities for employment; the snag is that only a small percentage of youth have the necessary and appropriate professional and vocational education. The unemployed people can be made fit for employment by giving them vocational training. If they acquire skills in one type of work or another, they would be able to get absorbed in the professions or vocations. Our present system of theoretical education does not train people to work with their hands. The gospel of "dirty hands", manual activity instead of theoretical knowledge has much relevance. The young men in need of employment should learn how to use various types of tools and mechanical equipment with their hands and feet.

I happen to know several young men who are jobless and who are virtually starving because they have not

received any vocational training. Ordinary courses in the middle classes or for matriculation in school do not make persons fit for earning their livelihood. But when they get some vocational or professional education they were able to get some job and were able to feed themselves and their families.

Some of my friends have also described the sorry plight of young men who have not received any technical institution and were, for that reason, unable to get a job. All such untrained people merely swell the ranks of the unemployed. The Central and State governments have established technical institutions, polytechnics, etc. More such institutions should be opened and more industries started to create avenues of employment.

Leave Travel Concession

Q. 3. "Leave travel concession given to employees for holiday travel is a waste of money to the organisation."

Give three arguments in favour and three arguments against the viewpoint expressed in the statement.

Ans. Leave travel concession, popularly known as LTC, was designed to enable employees to travel outside their places of work and residence in order to see the world around them and not remain confined to their towns and cities. But the LTC is a typical example of a plan going awry and proving virtually fruitless.

Arguments in Favour of the View

1. The LTC is generally misused by the employees. They wangle the amount due to them under the rules for travel but they seldom put it to proper use; instead, they misappropriate the money, spend it on various things, including consumer goods, fancy clothes, or to pay up the dues to shopkeepers and others.

2. The leave travel concession has turned several honest employees into dishonest ones who make false statements of the expenditure actually incurred. The accounts clerks who give the amounts to the employees for travel during the holidays also learn to adopt dishonest practices. In connivance with the intended

beneficiaries they obtain a part of the total amount involved. They also accept false receipts and become active participants in frauds.

3. In consequence, the LTC helps to spread corruption, falsehood, the habit of telling lies, cheating and deception. The children of such employees also learn that their parents are indulging in falsehood and deception. They too learn such bad habits; instead of becoming honest they become liars and deceivers. If their elders adopt certain tactics to deceive their office people, the children can, and do, deceive their parents, tell lies and steal money. Thus bad habits are being spread; one deplorable example leads to others.

Arguments Against the View

1. The contention that the employees deceive the organisation in which they work, by receiving some money ostensibly for travel, is not wholly correct. Many of them do travel, and are thus able to broaden their vision and benefit in many ways through trips to historical places, centres of learning, etc.

2. If the organisation concerned exercises greater supervision and ensures proper check, it can save itself the losses it would otherwise suffer. Experience has shown that the percentage of people who are honest and refund the amount taken for travel is far greater than that of persons who misuse the money. The organisation would be able to spot the deceivers and get rid of them.

3. The money utilised by members of the staff for travel is certainly not a waste. In fact, the staff members who thus get the facility for travel acquire experience and knowledge of the other parts of the country. They return with a fresh, broadened mind and this prevents stagnation and staleness. The quality of their work improves and the organisation as well the rest of the staff benefit. The L.T.C. helps to promote national unity and integration.

Words and Books

Q. 4. Suppose all printed words disappear from all the books in the world overnight.

Give various consequences, but

in any case not fewer than four, if such a situation should arise in the world.

Ans. The situation envisaged in the statement is very unlikely to arise. Any volume or book from which all words just disappear would cease to be a book; it would be reduced to an empty cover or folder with a thick paper or card board binding on top and at the back with nothing inside. It would be a useless thing with only blank papers inside.

Consequences

1. The entire process of education would come to a stop because no printed books will be available. Books written in hand are rare. No teacher can teach all the subjects from memory. When there are no books, there would be merely oral work the utility of which is very limited. Books, after all, contain printed words; if these disappear, the books would be rendered useless.

2. All our libraries would become futile because the hundreds and thousands of books preserved there would be reduced to empty covers without contents. The large sums of money spent on these libraries would be wasted. This would be an incalculable loss to the academic world in general and the student world in particular.

3. At present all the writings of authors get printed and are thus preserved for present and future generations. When printing is not possible because all the printed words get erased, no human knowledge can be preserved. The loss to the world would be incalculable.

4. If, through such a tragedy, the books of poetry and masterly works of fiction and drama are lost to the world, there would be no replacements. Once the printed words in the books, written by famous authors, poets and dramatists, disappear, the world would be deprived of all the precious, invaluable heritage.

5. If our numerous books are shorn of their contents (the handwritten manuscripts are only a few in number), what would humanity do with the innumerable blank books—throw them away as waste paper or burn them or tear off the pages? Disposal of the blank books would itself pose a major problem.

Notes on Current Affairs

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

♦ EXIT MADHAVSINH SOLANKI ♦ PRESIDENT'S RULE IN NAGALAND ♦ TRUE AUTONOMY SOUGHT FOR E.C. ♦ NEW IMPORT-EXPORT POLICY ♦ 8TH PLAN ACCENT ♦ ARMY OPERATIONS IN ASSAM ♦ AMENDMENT OF POLL LAW ♦ SUBSTANTIAL TAX CONCESSIONS ♦ SPECIAL FORCE FOR N.E. INSURGENCY ♦ POLITICAL CRISIS IN MANIPUR ENDS ♦ PLEA FOR MORE AUTONOMY ♦ MINORITIES PANEL TO BE STATUTORY BODY ♦ INDIA-UK EXTRADITION PACT IN MAY ♦ ASSAM-NAGALAND BORDER DISPUTE ♦

Exit Madhavsingh Solanki

THE Bofors gun deal scandal has claimed another victim. On March 31 the Minister for External Affairs, Mr Madhavsingh Solanki, resigned following charges that he had tried to influence the Bofors scandal probe by handing over a note to the Swiss Foreign Minister, Mr Rene Felber, during a recent visit to Switzerland. The Home Minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, told the Rajya Sabha on March 31 that Mr Solanki had resigned. A similar announcement was made in the Lok Sabha by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs.

The Opposition literally forced the Government to announce Mr Solanki's resignation by threatening to move a censure motion against the External Affairs Minister. Following Mr Solanki's candid confession in both Houses a day earlier that a memorandum given to him by an unidentified lawyer 45 minutes before his meeting with the Swiss Foreign Minister on February 1 in Davos (Switzerland) had been passed on to the Swiss Government.

His resignation was the logical step after the admission that he acted as a carrier of a "note" from an Indian lawyer, whose name he could not remember, to his Swiss counterpart. It was not clear whether he merely acted as a messenger boy or he carried an important five-page "memo" from himself to the Swiss Foreign Minister, requesting the Swiss Government to "go slow" on the Bofors investigation. There is general

agreement that if Mr Solanki acted just as a courier to a private lawyer, his conduct was unbecoming of a senior minister of the Cabinet.

A report in a leading English daily alleged that Mr Solanki had acted on a tip from an Indian business house whose name had often been mentioned in connection with the gun deal commission. The Hinduja's contended that they were not involved in the matter.

President's Rule in Nagaland

THE Central Government once again took action under Article 356 of the Constitution and imposed President's rule on Nagaland on April 3 because of the breakdown of the law and order and the "fluid" party position in the State. The Opposition in Parliament strongly disapproved of the action and described it as "unwarranted and indefensible, especially when the State Governor, in his report to the Centre, had not recommended any such drastic action". Some M.P.s went to the extent of describing the Centre's action in Nagaland as "rape of democracy in the sensitive border State". Critics also alleged that imposition of President's rule was a clear abuse of Article 356 and a bad precedent in Centre-State relations.

A Central spokesman however put in a strong defence and argued that the Government had no alternative when the Chief Minister himself had stated that purposeful ad-

ministration could not be carried on with Ministers and legislators pressurising him for plum posts and the level of insurgency increasing in the State.

According to one version, the Centre had "acted out of pique" after the State Assembly had been dissolved on March 27 by the Governor without consulting the Centre. A Central spokesman denied this charge however; in fact, he expressed the view that the dissolution of the Assembly was quite in order under Article 174. Following the disqualification of 15 Congress MLAs by the State Assembly Speaker and defections from the ruling party, the position had certainly become fluid. The dissolution of the Assembly had shown that it had become impossible to carry on the administration in accordance with the Constitution.

The political instability on the State became even more evident when 13 out of 24 members of the ruling NPC withdrew support to the Government of Mr Vamuzo. The House has a strength of 60.

True Autonomy Sought for E.C.

THE Chief Election Commissioner, Mr T.N. Seshan, called on March 30 for "true autonomy" to his agency to check electoral malpractices effectively. He was delivering the key address at a seminar on "Electoral reforms—Key to social transformation". Mr Seshan urged that the Election Commission should be strengthened at various levels. He criticised the extensive use of the police to ensure fair elections. "No democracy can be run by using the police force." The use of numbers (of men) and sophisticated weapons was futile, according to him.

Mr Seshan said the unity of the country was in danger. There was widespread discontent with

authority, and the external manifestation was in the form of conflicts. The solution to it all was not just electoral reforms but reforms at all levels. There was need to change the national character.

Fair elections did help in enforcing accountability and exposing the conflicts and ill of society. And they provide a forum for the most common man; urban or rural. However, a number of defects had crept into this system. Money power, corrupt practices and violence were the dominating factors in any election in the country. And the real poor had never voted. Only a small minority of votes produce a majority party.

The law to check the unethical practices was weak. As the "gains of misuse are substantial", elections have become a "manipulative exercise" of the elite for handling of large masses, he said.

The Home Minister emphasised it was impossible for the Government or the Election Commission to make any headway in checking electoral malpractices without full cooperation of all the political parties. Cases of violence and booth capturing had however been limited to isolated pockets. Certain State governments, he added, had done commendable work in ensuring peaceful elections.

To deal with booth capturing the Government had made a series of amendments to the Representation of People Act in 1989. A new offence, booth capturing, was incorporated in it with a minimum jail sentence. However, the Home Minister conceded that booth capturing still took place in many places.

Political parties play a vital role in the whole process of elections. It is they who stand to benefit if elections are free and fair. "It is only fair that political parties should take the fullest responsibility in this regard", Mr Chavan added.

New Import-Export Policy

THE new export-import policy, effective from April 1, virtually frees imports from licensing controls, barring those of consumer goods. Goods outside the two small negative

lists, one for imports and the other for exports specified in the policy, can now be freely traded. The main thrust of the policy which will remain in force for 5 years (1992-97) was to remove unnecessary controls and restrictions on imports and exports.

The policy contains new incentives for export growth. Duty-free imports related to export production have been liberalised through the introduction of a value-based advance licensing system. The import duty on capital goods has also been reduced with an increased export obligation. Deemed exports have been accorded a special import licence facility.

The policy has also virtually eliminated import canalisation. Except for some petroleum products, edible oils, fertilisers and cereals, all other items have now been decanalised. Newsprint has not only been decanalised but the procedure for its import has also been considerably simplified. Import of capital goods has been liberalised and these are no longer in the negative list of imports.

Under this liberal import policy, it is estimated (at 1991-92 prices) that \$ 4 billion would be required every year as exceptional financing to bridge the current account deficit. The Eighth Plan assumes a GDP growth of 5.6 per cent. The import elasticity of the economy to achieve this rate of GDP growth is estimated at 1.5 times. This would mean an annual import growth of 8.4 per cent. Even after assuming an export growth of 13-14 per cent per annum, exceptional financing of \$ 4 billion would be required if the current account deficit is to be maintained at 1.5 per cent of GDP.

The policy, which is coterminous with the Eighth Five Year Plan attempts to make imports-exports account for as much as 20 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product in the coming years. In line with the trade policy, the new exim policy stipulates fewer restrictions, gives greater freedom to trade and reduces administrative controls.

The Commerce Minister, Mr P.

Chidambaram, asserted that the new policy was a "major step forward in the programme of liberalisation".

8th plan accent

THE Eighth Plan became operative from April 1 in a more deregulated environment, with a shrinkage in prescriptive planning by the Planning Commission. The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, said that in the context of a series of economic reforms initiated by the Government and opening up of the Indian economy, the responsibility of the public sector would come down in many areas.

The public sector would make investment only in those areas where investment is mainly infrastructural in nature and would withdraw from other areas. But the Government would have the primary responsibility for investment in social sectors such as literacy, health, population control and the environment. The priority would be to find resources for development of these social sectors.

The plan sets an average growth target of 5.6 per cent per year for the next five years, taking 1991-92 as the base year. There has been a dilution of the growth target, considering that the base year experienced a negative growth rate.

The plan document is still under preparation, but Mr Mukherjee said the launching of the Plan before the Plan document was ready was not unusual. It happened at the time of launching the Sixth Plan and again in the case of the Seventh Plan. The Commission was going ahead with the finalisation of the plan document which would be completed after discussions with Central Ministries and Chief Ministers of States in the next few weeks. The National Development Council would meet on May 23 to give its final clearance to the plan document.

A key factor for the success of the plan is that it would have to be financed in a non-inflationary manner. The plan projects an external or current account deficit of 1.4 per cent

of GDP annually, which would mean an annual set inflow of resources of not more than \$ 4 billion.

Since assistance from multi-lateral financing institutions has been running around \$ 2.5 billion, another \$ 1.5 billion would have to come in the form of foreign investment and remittances from abroad. But even with this there would have to be a minimum annual export growth rate of 13.6 per cent by volume.

Army Operations in Assam

TROOPS fanned out in six districts of Assam on April 1 with the beginning of a renewed Army operation against hardliners in the truncated ULFA. The operation—a sequel to “Operation Rhino” which had been suspended on January 14—started in the districts of Nagaon, Sibsagar, Nalbari, Darrang, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh to flush out secessionist elements.

Simultaneously, the Government held parleys with a splinter group of the ULFA led by one time hardcore militants Munin Nobis, Sidhartha Phukan and Kalpajyoti Neog.

Now that the ULFA has formally split, the Government has decided to hold negotiations with the faction willing to talk and to use force against those opposed to the peace efforts. The top four functionaries of the ULFA, including the chairman, Arabinda Rajkhowa, the commander-in-chief, Paresh Barua, the General Secretary, Anup Chetia, and the vice-chairman Pradip Gogoi, have rejected the proposal for talks and have reiterated their resolve to continue the struggle for a “sovereign Assam”.

Much of the optimism exuded by the Government after the decision of seven district committees of ULFA to begin negotiations with the Government evaporated when the militant outfits “big four” adopted a defiant posture.

The Chief Minister, Mr Hiteswar Saikia, is however hopeful of a peaceful settlement of the Assam problem. In the Assembly he said seven district units of the ULFA had voluntarily

come forward for discussions with the Government. The Government intends to take appropriate measures to remove any obstacle in the way of peace efforts.

Amendment of Poll Law

ANOTHER significant measure was passed on March 18 when the Lok Sabha approved a Bill for continuing the electoral process in the event of the death of an independent candidate. The Bill is the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1992. It was understood that the Government would come forward with a comprehensive legislation on electoral reforms in the next session of Parliament. It would not be possible to introduce such a Bill in the current budget session of Parliament because the Government proposed to discuss the issue with the opposition parties and others.

The Government had to bring forth the R.P. (Amendment) Bill because elections for four Parliamentary and 28 Assembly seats in Punjab were countermanded following the death of independent candidates. The measure replaces the relevant Ordinance. The Bill had been approved by the Rajya Sabha on March 11.

The Law Minister sought to allay the opposition's misgivings that the Government would drag its feet in effecting electoral reforms. On the contrary, the Government is keen to bring about electoral reforms after due consultations with the opposition and others.

While formulating the comprehensive Bill on electoral reforms the Government will take serious note of the recommendations made by the late Dinesh Goswami Committee. The Committee had suggested fresh delimitation on the basis of the 1981 census, rotation of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes, introduction of multi-purpose indentity cards and weeding out non-serious candidates.

Substantial Tax Concessions

FINANCE Minister Manmohan Singh, bowing to demands by several sections of the business com-

munity, announced some concessions on March 26, in his reply to the budget debate in the Lok Sabha. Among these are: reduction of 5 per cent points in the rate of customs duty on project imports and general machinery from the proposed 60 per cent. He withdrew the budget proposal for raising the rates of import duty on components for fuel-efficient light commercial vehicles and synthetic waste. The rates in force before the budget was presented have thus been restored, in consideration of the fact that such vehicles were used as goods carriers. As a sop to the shoddy wool industry, the increase in import duty on rags has been lowered from 110 per cent to 35 per cent. The Central exchequer stands to lose revenue to the extent of Rs 245 crore on account of the proposed concessions.

The Finance Minister expressed his reluctance to raise the income tax exemption limit further, on the ground that it would affect the revenue position of the States. But he promised to discuss the matter with the States. He assured that the Government would not be insensitive to the demand for restoration of the various tax exemption schemes.

The House passed by voice vote the relevant “vote on account” to provide for withdrawal of Rs 45,982 crore from the Consolidated Fund to defray charges in course of payments during the financial year 1992-93. Supplementary demands for 1991-92 were also passed by a voice vote.

Special force for N.E. insurgency

A suitably structured special regional force needs to be raised at the earliest exclusively for tackling insurgency in the North-East. It is believed by the Centre that the setting up of a separate regional force would go a long way in the “proper” handling of insurgency in the sensitive region because of the area's peculiarities. An official note makes a strong plea for the setting up of the force in national interest and says that only men from the North-Eastern region should be recruited to this

special force as they were the ones who really understood the region fully.

Elaborating on the concept of the special force, the note says that it should have a separate and distinct ethos, be suitably equipped in terms of weapons, vehicles, communications, facilities, be well-trained to adopt flexible tactics, capable of maintaining happy relations with the local population and be able to cooperate and coordinate with the local civil authorities in all aspects, including development.

While operating in the North-East, the aim would be to reach out to the people and not remain secluded in the classical army concept or that of a central police organisation in fenced-off military camps and cantonments, the note says. The efficacy of such a force would be dictated by the ability to maintain the correct ethos and its gainful employment.

About the problem in the North-East as such, the note says that the issues pertaining to the North-East should not be viewed as individual problems and dealt with in compartmentalised or isolated manner. "You simply cannot tackle the ULFA, the PLA, the IBRE, the NSCN, the NYLF and others individually", the note says. It cautions against what it calls "imposing" any model of the past, or from other regions, on the North-East as "it will not find acceptance nor can it throw up solutions".

Political Crisis in Manipur Ends

CENTRAL rule, imposed in the turbulent and highly sensitive State of Manipur ended on April 8; a new ministry under the leadership of R.K. Dorendra Singh was sworn in as the entity's 19th Chief Minister. President's rule in the State lasted as long as 83 days. The former Chief Minister and senior Congress leader, Mr Reishang Keishang, was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister.

Even after the swearing-in of the ministry political uncertainty continues because of the constantly changing political alignments and the shifting loyalties. To these factors

has to be added the disqualification of some M.L.A.s a few days earlier. Two more legislators were disqualified on April 7. The actual strength of the 60-member State Assembly is now 45 with the Congress and its allies having the support of 23 members. The United Legislature Front (ULF) claims to have a strength of 24 M.L.A.s. The Speaker had disqualified 13 members earlier but the Supreme Court had quashed the disqualification of seven M.L.A.s and stayed the disqualification of six others. It needs to be noted that the Congress strength in the Assembly is only 13.

The Opposition in Parliament raised strong protests and accused the ruling party of taking several undemocratic steps to install its party government in Manipur and demanded the dissolution of the Assembly and fresh elections there. Some M.P.s claim that barring the Congress, all political parties demand fresh elections. One vocal leader warned that by adopting such methods, the Congress would further alienate the people of North-east India and create a situation as existing in Punjab and Kashmir. A Government spokesman however asserted that what had happened in Manipur was a part of the democratic process.

Plea for more Autonomy

ALMOST all political parties have in recent weeks renewed their plea for more autonomy to the States and a fresh review of Centre-State relations. In March the BJP leader, Mr A.B. Vajpayee, demanded a total review of Centre-State relations under the changed circumstances and said the States should be given more autonomy, especially in the field of developmental activities.

Releasing the political resolution adopted by the National Executive of the party on the concluding day at Sarnath, Mr Vajpayee emphasised the need for speedy implementation of the Sarkaria Committee report on Centre-State relations, even though it was "not radical". In his view, "radical" included all subjects, ex-

cept three important ones, defence, external affairs and communications. However, the BJP was opposed to it, and the States, too, did not want such a radical measure. All that they wanted was adequate funds to carry out development activities. The political resolution did not demand imposition of President's rule in Bihar, even though Bihar was now under mafia rule. For the common man there is no protection of life, limb and dignity. All developmental work is at a standstill.

Recently, Prime Minister P.V. Narashimha Rao advocated flexible relations between the Centre and the States with the country being run as a partnership. "Essentially, I agree with the postulate that India needs a strong Centre but at the same time, no one can run the country from Delhi", the Prime Minister said. The effort should be to strike a balance which would allow a certain range of flexibility so that the possibility existed of changing over from side to side as circumstances demanded.

"Our troubles emanate from the attempts to shoot beyond this range. If this tendency to shoot beyond this range is avoided, then there is great possibility of the Indian polity enduring and prospering."

Minorities panel to be statutory body

THE Government would introduce a Bill in the current session of Parliament to make the Minority Commission a statutory body, according to the Welfare Minister, Mr Sita Ram Kesri. The Government's 15-point programme for the welfare of the minorities would be recast in line with the election manifesto of the Congress.

The report was submitted by the Commission chairman, Mr S.M.H. Burney. He was happy that the Government had accepted the recommendation of the commission to make it a statutory body and to introduce a bill in this regard. The commission had reviewed the current 15-point programme for the minorities and come to conclusion that it had not really helped them.

The period 1990-91 under review by the Commission had been a bad year as there had been a number of riots in different parts of the country, particularly in Hyderabad, Aligarh and Ahmedabad. The communal situation has lately been satisfactory.

In its report, the commission has emphasised the need for providing incentives to the minority communities to go to schools and for adult education among them, particularly artisans. Polytechnics should be opened for them and they should be given vocational training.

India-UK extradition pact in May

B RITISH High Commissioner in India Sir Nicholas Fenn indicated in the third week of March that the governments of India and Britain are all set to sign an extradition treaty and a treaty on the mutual confiscation of assets of terrorists and smugglers to combat terrorism and the drug menace facing the two countries. The treaties have already been drafted and would be signed in early May.

The British Government is sharing a bitter experience with India and Sir Nicholas believed that a threat like terrorism should be thrashed out to ensure democracy and the safeguarding of human rights.

On the NPT issue Sir Nicholas said his country was not pressuring India but it wanted to thrash out the nuclear issue to ensure that the sub-continent remained a zone of peace. The British envoy refuted the allegation that his country was giving shelter and financial assistance to militants fomenting trouble in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir through the Indo-Pak border. In case there were terrorists in the UK, his country would deal with such a situation in accordance with the law of the land.

On Pakistani support to militants in Punjab and Kashmir, he said it was a problem between two neighbouring countries which could be resolved through bilateral talks on the basis of the Shimla Agreement. "It's never the business of the British Government to sort out a solution in

this regard", he explained.

Assam-Nagaland Border Dispute

THE Assam-Nagaland tensions along their common border have again been renewed. The two States are locking horns over the possession of a cluster of disputed settlements in the Doyang forest reserve. The focal point of the tension is Merapani, a small township which had been scarred by a high casualty bloody clash between the armed police forces of the two neighbouring States way back in June, 1985. Reports trickling in from the volatile zone say that fear has gripped the villagers amidst threats and counter-threats from either side.

District officials in Assam are said to have drawn the attention of the State Government to the attacks from Nagaland on local traders of Merapani. They have also noted

their apprehensions about the possibility of a deterioration in the situation.

That all is not well in the disputed areas was evident from the Assam Governor, Mr Loknath Misra's address to the State Assembly recently. He spoke of reports of the Nagaland Government laying the foundation-stone of a civil subdivision in the disputed area. More than 5,000 sq km of disputed areas have been under adverse possession of the Nagaland Government", the Governor noted. "In spite of the mutual agreement between the two States to maintain the status quo, the Government of Nagaland is setting up outposts, circles, sub-divisions, etc." The Assam Chief Minister, Mr Hiteswar Saikia, has accused Nagaland of illegally occupying 1,01,750 hectares of Assam's territory. the nuclear question. The US has

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

♦ US WANTS INDIA TO ATTEND SUMMIT ♦ US SELLS ARMS TO PAKISTAN ♦ 18 RUSSIAN REPUBLICS SIGN TREATY ♦ BID TO REVIVE SOVIET UNION ♦ PAK FOILS JKLF BID ♦ END OF APARTHEID ♦ NEW GOVERNMENT LIKELY IN KABUL ♦ AMNESTY & MILITANTS' VIOLENCE ♦ NO U N INTERVENTION ♦ INDIA-BANGLADESH ACCORD ♦

US wants India to attend summit

THE United States will press India to agree to a five-nation summit to achieve a nuclear weapons-free zone in South Asia as an interim step towards the ultimate goal of making both India and Pakistan sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. Washington had entered into a "productive dialogue" with New Delhi on the nuclear issue with the recent US visit of the Indian Foreign Secretary, Mr J.N. Dixit, according to a senior Bush administration official on March 18.

Participating in a live satellite television programme, "Worldnet" the US Under-Secretary of State for regional security, Mr Reginald Bartholomew rejected a suggestion by a Pakistani expert that Washington should not focus on the Pakistani

nuclear programme as long as the Kashmir issue remained unresolved.

Replying to questions from nuclear experts and journalists from India, Pakistan and China in the "Worldnet" programme, Mr Bartholomew did not see any merit in enlarging the membership of the proposed five-nation summit by including Israel and South Africa.

Washington is promoting the five-nation summit to be attended by the US, Russia, China, India and Pakistan, to resolve the nuclear issue in South Asia.

Naturally the U.S. has welcomed the decision by China and France to sign the NPT and cited the example of Argentina and Brazil entering into a bilateral agreement on inspection of each other's nuclear installations. Mr Bartholomew emphasised that the US was not singling out South Asia on

been engaged in a serious dialogue on the issue concerning West Asia.

US not linking NPT with aid:

The US ambassador, Mr William Clark Jr. on March 20 denied that the United States was trying to link bilateral aid to India signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Mr Clark told a meeting of the Forum of Financial Writers late in March that while working for a positive movement towards achieving a nuclear free zone in South Asia, the US did not have a fixed solution to offer.

A large number of countries were looking for a positive movement in the field of nuclear non-proliferation. India could not stand in isolation.

On India's position on NPT vis-a-vis Pakistan, Mr Clark said what the US wanted was to reduce tensions between the two countries. When a correspondent said there was a difference between India and some other countries in this regard, as India had desisted from building weapons in spite of its developed capability, he said that was no reason why India should not move into a situation which was more rational and comfortable.

US sells arms to Pakistan

THE USA has been selling military equipment to Pakistan on a large scale on a commercial basis even when it is unable to give official military aid because of the Pressler Amendment, the Pentagon informed Congress in March.

The actual value of commercial export deliveries to Pakistan amounted to \$ 22.781 million in fiscal 1991 (beginning October 1, 1990) and increased to \$ 800.148 million in fiscal 1992. For fiscal 1993, beginning October 1, 1992, such deliveries are estimated at \$ 480.089 million.

The American administration shocked Senator Pressler recently by saying that the interpretation put by its lawyers is that the Pressler amendment applied only to Government grants and loans and not to commercial sales. Because of the Pressler amendment, the administration is

not able to deliver to Pakistan the \$ 89 million economic support funds it had allocated for Pakistan.

The administration had earmarked for Pakistan \$ 106.595 million for the current fiscal year of security assistance by way of grant, another \$ 6.961 million of security assistance on concessional terms, \$ 100 million in economic support funds and \$ 915,000 for military training.

All these are, however, kept in suspension pending acceptance of Pressler terms by Pakistan. For fiscal 1993, there is no Government assistance contemplated under these heads, but commercial sales will continue.

"We are not proposing security assistance programme levels for Pakistan in fiscal 1993", says the Pentagon, "but would hope to resume assistance if the conditions required by the Pressler amendment are met. All new commitments of economic support funds were halted on October 1, 1990, but funds in the pipeline continue to be spent"

U.S. defence: The State Department in mid-March again justified the sale of military spares and components to Pakistan despite the Pressler amendment, this time in a slightly amplified form.

The State Department spokesman recalled the Secretary of State, Mr James Baker's stand that the commercial military sales do not contravene the letter or spirit of the Pressler amendment and said: "The Pressler amendment does not use language commonly used by Congress when it intends to indicate a total embargo or when it prohibits the sale and export of defence articles and services. The Pressler amendment prohibits the sale and delivery of military equipment and technology by the US Government."

The Pressler provisions, for example, are different from the language used for the embargo against Iraq and countries that violate human rights. In those cases it specifically mentioned both govern-

ment sales and commercial military sales of defence articles and services.

The commercial sales to Pakistan were of spare parts and maintenance items and not the sale of "new military equipment and technology or upgrades".

Pak Army Sheds ideology: A U-turn in Pakistan's Afghan policy suggests the new Army Chief, Gen Asif Nawaz Janjua, is steering the Pakistan Army towards moderation, thus shedding the ideological burden of the Zia era.

The sudden retirement of Gen Hamid Gul, a protege of the late Gen Zia-ul-Haq and a votary of Islam, may have driven the message home among the top brass of the all-powerful army.

Reports in the Pakistani media suggest the top army brass in Pakistan now favour soft-peddalling on both the nuclear issue and Islamabad's relations with the USA.

On the nuclear issue, the Pakistan Army high command believes the country could avoid a confrontation without compromising its wider national interests, a leading Karachi-based magazine "Newsline" reported. The shift in Pakistan's policy from support to the Afghan rebels to backing a UN-sponsored solution of the Afghan conflict, seems to have been dictated by several factors, including developments in the Central Asian republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union.

All the land routes that can revive trade links between Pakistan and the Central Asian Muslim States pass through Afghanistan. Without a resolution of the Afghan conflict, Pakistan cannot develop trade or economic relations with these States.

According to reports in the Pakistani media, most of the leaders of the Central Asian States have cautioned Pakistan that they would continue to support the Najibullah Government if the Afghan issue was not resolved. The "Newsline" reported that the military authorities now believe that

a further delay in a peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem could cause serious problems for Pakistan. The debacle at Jalalabad in 1989, and subsequently at Gardez, indicated the futility of seeking a military solution of the Afghan problem. Stoppage of a substantial US aid, growing frustration with the fractious Afghan rebel groups, the socio-economic burden caused by the presence of over three million Afghan refugees and the dangerous proliferation of drugs and arms are believed to be key factors for the shift in Pakistan's Afghan policy.

18 Russian republics sign treaty

A notable development took place on March 31 when President Boris Yeltsin and leaders of 18 of the 20 autonomous republics in Russia signed a "historic" treaty seeking to prevent a Soviet Union-type disintegration of Russia by demarcating the powers of the centre and the republics.

Tatarstan and Chechen republics refused to sign the new treaty, saying they want separate bilateral agreements with Russia to determine their status and the powers they would delegate to central Russian authorities.

The treaty was signed in the Kremlin's St Georges Hall decorated with the Russian tricolour of white, blue, red and the flags of the 20 republics. However, representatives of the republics sharply criticised and proposed corrections to the treaty. Some of the republics wanted corrections in the fields of property, budget and trade policy. Others criticised property and economic relations. Opposition national movements were particularly vociferous in opposing the treaty, assessing it as a "trap" for their sovereignty.

Meanwhile, the Parliament of Chechen republic, defying the Moscow Government, has imposed a state of emergency for an indefinite period on the territory after armed groups opposing President Djohar

Dudayev captured the radio and TV buildings in the capital, Grozny. The Speaker of Chechen Parliament accused the Russian military of inciting the Opposition forces.

On April 7 President Boris Yeltsin announced the takeover of the disputed Black Sea naval fleet by Russia in response to a similar decree signed by the Ukraine President.

Violence in States: Ethnic violence flared up in two former Soviet republics, leaving a dozen people dead in a disputed mountain region and two in eastern Moldova, official reports disclosed. A violent power struggle also threatened to explode anew in Georgia as government troops were mobilised on March 31 to eject supporters of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia from Western Georgian cities.

The tension across the former Soviet Union rose despite pleas for restraint and settlement, including a fact-finding trip to the mountain region of Nagorno Karabakh planned in the near future by the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister. More than 1,000 people have died in fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabakh, a predominantly Christian Armenian region within Muslim Azerbaijan, that is seeking independence from Azerbaijan.

Bid to revive Soviet Union

ABOUT two dozen hard-line lawmakers from the defunct Soviet Parliament headed for a city south of Moscow late in March to try to hold a legislative session in defiance of Russian authorities. About 100 supporters chanting "Soviet Union" saw them off. Col Viktor Alksnis, a former deputy and one of the so-called "black colonels" who had opposed many of the reforms of Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, said Russian authorities blocked the arrival of buses for use of the deputies.

The prospect of an assembly of hard-liners, many of whom supported the failed August attempt to oust Mr Gorbachov, has unnerved

the Russian legislature, which banned the congress. A major demonstration opposing the Government of President Boris Yeltsin also was planned in Moscow. Authorities said they would deploy thousands of police and Russian Interior Ministry troops to prevent any unrest.

The hard-liners had indicated they planned to choose a new leader to seek the restoration of the Soviet Union, which was dissolved last year following the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

A deputy said he hoped the Congress would elect a President to replace Mr Gorbachov who resigned on December 25. The deputy was hoping for "someone who could carry out his executive authority". Mr Yegor Ligachev, who once held the No. 2 job in the Communist party leadership, said the deputies were meeting "to unite the society behind a single government". It is not known how much popular support there is for the congress. Diehard communists frequently organise rallies of several thousand participants in Moscow and elsewhere. Recently, the protests became more visible but they do not appear to reflect the views of the majority of the population.

Pak Foils JKLF Bid

THE proposed march by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front militants across the Line of Control (LC) into Kashmir on March 30 fizzled out as the Pakistani security forces barricaded the entry points and arrested 500 marchers in Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

On the Indian side, curfew was imposed in three major towns of the Kashmir Valley and security was strengthened in the four-km area around the Hazratbal shrine on the outskirts of Srinagar to forestall any attempt by the JKLF to organise a march across the Line of Control. A curfew-like situation prevailed in the border areas of Uri, Kupwara and Handwara.

An Indian defence spokesman

said here nothing had happened on the LC and the international border even as the Army kept a tight vigil to prevent any intrusion.

Thousands of Pakistani security forces had been deployed in the regions near the Line of Control to stop anyone marching into Kashmir and prohibitory orders were clamped in Muzaffarabad and adjoining areas banning processions and rallies, reports from Islamabad said.

The security forces had laid barbed wire barricades and built stone barriers on the roads leading to Chinari and the border town of Chakothi, from Muzaffarabad. Thousands of personnel from the Punjab and Frontier constabularies had been deployed in the regions to check the JKLF marchers from proceeding towards the LC.

The JKLF claimed in Islamabad that their followers were proceeding to the international border despite being teargassed and baton-charged during "clashes" with the police.

Pakistani police has already arrested Mr Amanullah Khan, the JKLF chief. Acting JKLF Chairman, Raja Muzaffar Khan, has also been arrested. Later they were released.

End of Apartheid

MARCH 18, 1992, was an historic day in the history of South Africa. On that day, for the first time, white South Africans voted for a liberal "one person, one vote" constitution, in a special referendum. In keeping with the landslide referendum victory for democratic reform, local reaction to the result has been overwhelmingly positive. South Africa thus enters the comity of civilised nations. In a wave of congratulatory statements, the country's business sector forecast increased growth and investor interest.

The spectrum of support for President F.W. de Klerk's reforms ranged from right-wing Nationalist party supporters—people who had supported former President P.W. Botha—to white members of the S.

African Communist Party.

In his victory speech, President de Klerk said the poll had closed the final chapter on apartheid. "We have laid the foundation on which to build real re-conciliation, peace and progress for all. The white electorate has risen above itself."

Mr F.W. de Klerk scored a clear victory in the whites—only referendum on ending apartheid and sharing power with the blacks. The pro-apartheid Conservative Party leader conceded defeat as results showed Mr De Klerk leading with 72 per cent of the votes.

"Today is the real birthday of the new South Africa", Mr de Klerk told South Africans. "Therefore we have to move forward to power sharing cooperation and reconciliation in one undivided South Africa." The white electorate has "risen above itself" and given a landslide to work with all other South Africans.

The ANC President, Mr Nelson Mandela, said whites should have no reservations about a majority government.

While most South Africans were in a jubilant mood as results from the poll areas came in. A number of countries welcomed the "yes" vote and said they would review the remaining sanctions if the reforms were stepped up.

Even the home town area of the former President, Mr P.W. Botha, who called for a "no" vote, there was a "yes" majority. The referendum was held during violence in townships. At least 290 people were killed in the three-week campaign before the poll on whether to proceed with talks on multi-racial democracy. Many analysts believe the road ahead is still tortuous. Over a third of the whites opposed the reforms.

New Government likely in Kabul

THERE are indications of an early end to the crisis in Afghanistan following President Najibullah's offer to step down from the office he

has held for the past many years. Fresh urgency has been lent to the current UN efforts to resolve the Afghan issue. The UN Secretary-General, Dr Boutros Ghali's special envoy, Mr Benon Sevon, has been busy holding consultations and monitoring the efforts in various camps to achieve the goal. There has been a serious threat that Afghanistan might drift into further chaos and no solution of the prolonged crisis seemed to be in sight.

Mr Sevon has been carrying on shuttle diplomacy, visiting Teheran, Kabul and Peshawar more than once. Efforts are still being made to establish an interim government at Kabul in the next few days. The food crisis and the endless squabbles among the various tribes and political groups have worsened matters during the past few weeks. Mr Sevon is reported to have assured that he would shorten the process of peace-making so that there is an acceptable arrangement in the Afghan capital.

An interim government of 12 persons is proposed to be formed. This would pave the way for an assembly of 150 to 200 representatives of various factions and the Kabul Government. The interim Government would then hold elections. The Jirga or assembly is expected to meet some time in May at either Geneva or some other place. A neutral mechanism is expected to be evolved. But Mujahideen leader Hikmatyar has been pressing for a military solution and also for an interim government of only Mujahideen leaders. Several leaders have opposed the dominance of Pakhtoons who enjoy a numerical advantage over other groups.

Amnesty & militants' violence

WHILE campaigning this year against alleged custodial violence in India, Amnesty International says it will also focus on violence by militants against innocent civilians in areas of insurgency. "We are going to make much more of an effort to actively pressurise the

leadership, membership and supporters of (armed) opposition groups in the areas of insurgency in India", an Amnesty spokesman disclosed on March 29.

Releasing an account of Indian authorities' "atrocities" on detainees, an Amnesty spokesman acknowledged that the agency's reporting tended to be "lopsided" in so far as it does not have much information on terrorist violence. Amnesty intends to use "third country" approach in its campaign against police treatment of suspects in India, but it stopped short of naming Pakistan as a possible target.

The campaign, aimed mainly against Indian police and army atrocities, will probably employ the approach that involves asking a "third country" to influence insurgents in the country in question.

Amnesty recently decided to focus on abuses by armed opposition groups as well as government. Our membership has said to us that in the coming two or three years you need to figure out a way of effectively acting against violations by opposition groups.

No U.N. Intervention

MUCH against the wishes of Pakistan, Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has rejected the suggestion that the United Nations intervene unilaterally in the Kashmir issue on the basis of the existing Security Council resolutions. The world body needs approval of both India and Pakistan for playing any role in the issue, Dr Ghali told his first formal Press conference since taking over as the chief executive. Dr Ghali asserted that the United Nations cannot play any role even if one party to the dispute does not accept it.

A Pakistani correspondent persisted with the question, saying the principle is true if it is a question of mediation but on Kashmir, he said, "clear-cut" resolutions already exist for holding self-determination in the

State.

Dr Ghali argued he would give the same answer—unless there is an agreement, the Security Council or other organs of the world body could not implement the resolutions.

The Secretary General's stand has been hailed by diplomats as vindication of India's stand which favours solution of the Kashmir problem bilaterally within the framework of the Shimla Agreement.

Pakistan has in recent months stepped up the campaign for internationalising the issue and has been pressing in all world fora that the UN should force India to implement the resolutions. The Secretary-General has meanwhile rejected the idea that the world body use intelligence provided by member-States for preventive diplomacy to ensure that simmering disputes do not hot up. The world body wants to maintain its independence and it is important to have its own intelligence in the form of more UN presence in various parts of the world.

Replying to a question on Afghanistan, he welcomed the decision of President Najibullah to step down and said this would help to convene an informal conference of junior members of various sections in Geneva or Vienna to prepare for meetings at a senior level to find a solution to the Afghan problem. There are still obstacles which have to be overcome.

India-Bangladesh accord

AFTER prolonged negotiations and overcoming many hurdles, India and Bangladesh reached on March 26 an understanding on the modalities for implementation of the terms of lease providing for the right of passage for Bangladesh through the "Tin Bigha" corridor to two Bangladesh enclaves. The understanding was reached through an exchange of letters signed by the two Foreign Secretaries on behalf of their respective governments.

While giving reactions to the understanding, a spokesman said "we consider it as an important forward step not only in effectively exercising our sovereignty on the Dahagram and Angarpota enclaves but also in moving towards resolution of other outstanding issues between the two neighbouring countries."

The understanding had been worked out in pursuance of the 1974 and 1982 agreements and in continuation of the official level talks held in Dhaka between the two countries in February. The disputed plot of land is 178 metres by 86 metres. The transfer is fixed for some time in June. The accord puts the final seal on an issue pending for nearly two decades.

Even if there is any motivated attempt to stir up trouble on the ground that Dhaka's right of passage across Indian territory will isolate the people of Kuchlibari, the fact that India will retain its sovereignty over the land despite the lease in perpetuity should set exaggerated fears at rest. This was clearly the option that was favoured when the earlier proposals for a tunnel or an over-bridge fell through.

Some disputed issues are still hanging fire. One of these is the matter of sharing river waters, with Mrs Khaleda Zia even saying that her government will take it to the UN if bilateral talks fail. Since four of the major rivers in the region—Ganga, Teesta, Brahmaputra and Meghna—are involved, the dispute is obviously complex, not the least because sufficient data are either not available or are not believed by the contending parties.

There is the Chakma problem which relates to an ethnic group, neither Hindu nor Muslim, which has been a sequel to the partition and Dhaka's aggressive policy of land colonisation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The result has been that Tripura is burdened by an influx of people who are unwilling to return to their homeland.

THE EXAMINER'S GUESS QUESTIONS

Q. What was the overall net profit of public enterprises in 1990-91?

Ans. Rs 2,367 74 crore This was less by 38 per cent from Rs 3,788 87 crore in 1989-90

Q. On what day is the International Women's Day celebrated?

Ans. March 8

Q. What is *INS Rajali*?

Ans. It is the naval air station of Indian Navy situated at Arakkonam near Madras

Q. Who is the commanding officer of the UN protection force (UNPROFOR) for Yugoslavia?

Ans. Gen Satish Nambiar of Indian Army

Q. What is the name of the newspaper which was for eight decades, the official newspaper of the former Communist Party of Soviet Union and a frosted window on the Kremlin Soul?

Ans. *Pravda* Because of lack of funds the publication has been curtailed to just three days in a week. Through the tyranny of Josef Stalin to the dwindling of Communist power under Mikhail Gorbachov, *Pravda* provided one of the few glimpses of official Kremlin thinking

Q. What is "Eco Mark"?

Ans. "Eco Mark" is the labelling scheme introduced in India for any product which is environment, friendly from cradle to grave (entire life cycle). This implies that the product's manufacturing process, usage and disposal should not, in any way, harm the environment

The labelling, on the lines of the ISI mark, will be granted by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The labelling is voluntary

With introduction of this labelling scheme India joins environment conscious countries such as Germany (Blue Angel), Sweden (White

Swan), Canada (Eco Logo) and Japan

Q. Which day is observed as World Disabled Day?

Ans. March 15

Q. Who headed the Tax Reforms Committee?

Ans. Dr Raja J Chelliah

Q. What price has been fixed for wheat of fair average quality for 1991-92?

Ans. Rs 250 per quintal This is an increase of Rs 25 over the price fixed for 1990-91

Q. Who has been selected as Miss India 1992 to represent in the World Beauty Pageant Contest?

Ans. Ms Madhu Sapre

Q. Why has UN put economic sanctions against Libya?

Ans. For its alleged involvement in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, in December 1988, over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people Britain, USA and France are asking for extradition of the two Libyans to USA, for trial, who are suspected to be involved in the incidence. Libya has, so far, refused to hand over the two suspects to USA

Q. Where is the World's Oldest Zoo situated?

Ans. London

Q. What is *Tin Bigha*?

Ans. *Tin Bigha* is an area in West Bengal which, under the Indo-Bangladesh Boundary agreement in 1974, was to be given to Bangladesh on lease in order to enable Bangladesh to have access to the Dahagram and Angarpota enclaves. Recently the two governments reached a final agreement and the arrangement would come into force from June 26, 1992

As per the terms of the agreement the sovereignty over the leased area would continue to vest in India.

Q. What are the highlights of the new five-year export-import policy

(1992-97)?

—Trade is free, subject only to a negative list of imports and a negative list of exports

—Stable policy for five years, 1992-97

—Negative import list is smallest ever Consumer goods will continue to be under restraint

—Special import facilities for hotels & tourism industry and for sports bodies

—Import of capital goods liberalised

—Second hand capital goods import allowed, in some sectors even without licence

—FOU scheme and EPZ scheme liberalised

Q. What average growth target has been fixed in the 8th plan?

Ans. 5.6 per cent per year for next five years, taking 1991-92 as the base year

Q. Which Indian sportsperson has been honoured by the Chinese Sports Journalists Association as one of Asia's ten best sportspersons for 1991?

Ans. Shiny Wilson

Q. What amount of loan has been agreed in principle by the World Bank to help National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) build 12 new power projects with an aggregate capacity of about 10,000 MW?

Ans. \$ 1 billion

Q. Name the German double world sprint champion (women) who was involved in the doping scandal?

Ans. Kratin Krabbe

Q. What per cent increase in the import of petroleum products has been projected by the end of 8th Plan period in 1996-97?

Ans. 58 per cent. Imports are stated to rise from a level of 10.69 million tonnes in 1991-92 to 16.91 million tonnes in 1996-97.

Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

UNFPA: The United Nations Population Fund.

UNPROFOR: UN Protection Force (for Yugoslavia).

AWARDS

Bharat Ratna

NOTED film producer and director Mr Satyajit Ray has been conferred with the *Bharat Ratna* for "distinguished and excellent services".

He is the fourth person to be honoured with *Bharat Ratna* in 1992. The others are: JRD Tata, Subhash Chandra Bose (*posthumously*), and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (*posthumously*).

Templeton Prize

THE Rev. Kyung-Chik Han of South Korea, founder of the world's largest Presbyterian Church, has won the 1992 Templeton prize, for progress in religion.

The prize is worth \$ one million. It was founded in 1972 by Wall Street Mutual Fund Manager, John M. Templeton. It is considered higher than the Nobel prizes in the belief that religion is more important.

Saraswati Samman, 1992

THE prestigious *Saraswati Samman* has been conferred on eminent Hindi poet and Litterateur, Dr Harivansh Rai Bachchan for the fourth part of his autobiography *Dashdwar Se Sopan Tak* published in 1985.

The award has been instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation and carries a cash award of Rs 3 lakh and a citation.

R.D Birla National Award, 1992

THE Rameshwandas Birla National Award for outstanding research work done by an Indian scientist in medical and related fields has been given to Dr Madhav G. Deo, Chief of Cancer Research Institute at the Tata

Memorial Centre. He had developed the first indigenous anti-leprosy vaccine, which even cures the dreaded disease.

Vyas Samman, 1992

NOTED Hindi writer and critic, Dr Ram Bilas Sharma, has been awarded the first *Vyas Samman* award for his book *Bharat Ke Prachin Bhasha Parivar aur Hindi* which was published in three volumes in 1991.

The award has been instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation and carries a cash award of Rs 1.50 lakh.

National Film Awards, 1992

Best Feature Film (Swarna Kamal): *Agantuk* (Bengali), directed by Satyajit Ray. The film is about a mysterious visitor who plants himself in an affluent Bengali family thereby sparking off tensions of all kinds.

Best Director: Satyajit Ray for his film *Agantuk*.

Best actor: Mohanlal, the popular Malayalam cine-star, for his role in *Bharatham*.

Best actress: Moloya Goswami, the talented Assamese actress for her work in *Firingoti*.

Best supporting actor: P.L. Narayana for his performance in *Yagnyam* (Tamil).

Best supporting actress: Santhadevi for her role in *Yamanan* (Malayalam).

Best child artist: Santosh Reddy for his natural performance as the street smart kid in *Bhadram Koduko* (Telugu).

Indira Gandhi Award for best first film of a director: *Haladhar* (Assamese) directed by Sanjeev Hazarika.

Best playback singer: Male: K.J. Yesudas for the Malayalam film *Bharatham*.

Female: Vani Jayaram for the Telugu film *Swathi Kiranam*.

Best music director: Rajat Dholakia for Hindi film *Dharavi*.

Nargis Dutt Award for best film on national integration: *Adi Mimansa* directed by A.K. Bir.

Best film on family welfare: *Durga* directed by Basu Chatterji.

Special Jury award: Soumitra Chatterjee who plays the lead role in the Bengali film *Antardhan*.

Regional films: *Sarothi* (Assamese), *Antardhan* (Bengali), *Mysoora Mallige* (Kannada), *Kadavu* (Malayalam), *Tara* (Oriya), *Vanna Vanna Pookal* (Tamil) and *Bhadram Koduko* (Telugu).

Oscar Awards, 1992

THE movie "The Silence of the Lambs", a film about a psychopath killer, has swept all the major Oscars.

The film won best actress for Jodie Foster, best actor for Anthony Hopkins, best director for Jonathan Demme and the best picture awards.

Best Picture: The Silence of the Lambs; **Actor:** Anthony Hopkins, The Silence of the Lambs; **Actress:** Jodie Foster, The Silence of the Lambs, **Supporting Actor:** Jack Palance, City Slickers; **Supporting Actress:** Mercedes Ruehl, The Fisher King; **Director:** Jonathan Demme, The Silence of The Lambs; **Original screenplay:** Callie Khouri, Thelma and Louise.

Lifetime achievement award: Satyajit Ray.

DEFENCE

Second indigenous built submarine launched

INDIA'S second indigenous built submarine *Shankul* was launched on March 21, 1992 at Mazagaon Docks, Bombay.

The SSK-type 1500 submarine will be commissioned in the Indian Navy by the end of 1992 after undergoing extensive harbour and sea trials.

Naval air unit opens

THE Indian Navy made a quantum jump in anti-submarine warfare and long range surveillance on March 11, 1992 when the naval air station INS *Rajali* at Arakkonam near Madras became operational.

INS *Rajali* will be the base for the Navy's state-of-the-art-TU 142 M aircraft which can fly 16 hours without refuelling and detect through electronic surveillance enemy submarines and destroy them with its weapon system.

The Russian built TU 142 M has a cruising speed of 300 nautical miles and can fly upto 240 nautical miles and back.

The naval air station has been named after *Rajali*, a bird of the eagle family. Equipped with advanced landing and communication systems, the base will be operational round the clock.

The decision to set up the base at Arakkonam was taken for two strategic reasons—for policing the east coast and to avoid the risk of basing all naval air units at Goa.

The foundation stone for the base, which had a World War II airfield, was laid by the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Nov 12, 1988. The base was built at a cost of Rs 86.83 crore.

New air defence systems for India

INDIA is to acquire new land based air defence system from Russia. It will include SAM-11 (called *Gadfly* and renamed *Ganga*) and anti-aircraft guns *Shikas*.

The *Ganga* missiles will replace *Kvadrats* (SAM-6). *Tanguska* is the improved version of the anti-aircraft guns *Shikas* (ZSU-23-4). India had been totally dependent on the Soviet systems for its land-based air defence. These included SAM-6, SAM-7, SAM-8 and *Strella 10M* missiles and the anti-aircraft self-propelled guns *Shikas*.

The *Shikas* have already been 20 years in service, while the *Kvadrats* have been in the army's self-propelled air-defence groups since 1979. The replacement for both the *Kvadrat* and *Shilka* has been neces-

sitated because the electronic warfare capability of these systems had been compromised in the recent Gulf War and also in the 1967 and 1973 West Asia wars.

The SAM-11 missile is a mobile system which provides defence against high performance aircraft and Cruise missiles. Being capable of engaging targets upto 14 km altitude, in conjunction with anti-aircraft gun *Tanguska*, they cover the fullest extent of air engagements from land, beyond which the air force takes on.

While *Ganga* is different from *Kvadrat*, the *Tanguska* is an upgraded version of *Shilka*. *Tanguska* has a digital computer and unlike *Shilka*, its radar is not linked to the fire control system and is capable of being used independently in the search and scan mode.

PERSONS

Asimov, Isaac

ISAAC Asimov, the prolific writer of science fact and fiction, who laid down the literary laws of how robots must behave, died at the age of 72.

In his second book "I, Robot", published in 1950, he had promulgated the three laws of robotics, which were: (a) Robots may not injure a human or, by inaction, allow a human to be harmed; (b) Robots must obey human orders unless that conflicts with the first law; (c) Robots must protect their own existence unless that conflicts with the first two laws.

In hundreds of books of science fact, Mr Asimov was a master explainer of the abstruse and complicated. He could put an intelligent but ignorant reader at ease with everything from the mysteries of mathematics to the keys to the genetic code.

He was born in Petrovichi in the Soviet Union on January 2, 1920, and brought to USA when he was three. He earned advanced degrees in Chemistry from Columbia University.

Begin, Menachem

FORMER Prime Minister of Israel who had shared a Nobel Prize for making peace with Egypt, Mr Menachem Wolfowich Begin died on

March 9, 1992 at the age of 78.

Mr Begin had helped found the Jewish State of Israel and later became its first right wing Prime Minister. He was a militant Zionist from his youth in Poland. During World War II he made his way to Palestine where he led an underground war against British colonial authorities.

During his six year term as Prime Minister of Israel, he signed a peace treaty with Egypt, led the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and encouraged Jewish settlements in territories seized from Arab countries during the 1967 six-day war.

Dhillon, G.S.

FORMER Lok Sabha Speaker and a Union Minister, Mr Gurdial Singh Dhillon died at the age of 78.

A snare and sober parliamentarian, Mr Dhillon held the post of the Lok Sabha Speaker twice. He was elected to the high office first in 1969 when he became the youngest Speaker at the age of 54. He was re-elected Speaker after the 1971 general elections.

He was born on August 6, 1915 at Panjwar village in Amritsar district of Punjab. After taking his law degree from the University Law College, Lahore, he joined the army as a Commissioned Officer. He took an active part in the freedom struggle.

Ray, Satyajit

RENOWNED film-maker, Satyajit Ray has been in the news for receiving the special Oscar award for life-time achievement, the *Bharat Ratna* and the award for best director of the 1992 National Awards.

Mr Ray is the first Indian film maker to be honoured with the prestigious Oscar award.

He was born in Calcutta on May 2, 1921 and made his debut in the film world in 1955 with *Pather Panchali*, which instantly became an all-time great of Indian cinema. In 1978 he was conferred an honorary doctorate by Oxford University, thus becoming the first film-maker to be honoured by the distinguished centre of learning.

He has also distinguished himself as a music composer, a writer of

children's stories and detective fiction and as a painter.

All his films except *Shatranj Ke Khiladi* were made in Bengali.

Raza, Rahi Masoom

WELL known Urdu Poet Rahi Masoom Raza died on March 15, 1992 at the age of 64. He was a distinguished scholar in linguistics in which he had done his doctorate from the Aligarh Muslim University. He had written dialogues and screen-plays for more than 300 films and tele-series. He was associated with the popular TV serial *Mahabharat* as its dialogue writer and was also the moving spirit behind the project.

Some of the films he wrote for included *Main Tulsi Tere Angan Ki*, *Tawaif*, *Andha Kanoon* and *Insaaf Ki Devi*.

PLACES

Mauritius

MAURITIUS, the Indian Ocean island nation, became a republic on March 12, 1992 amid colourful ceremonies and celebrations. The formal links with the British Crown came to an end when Governor General Veeraswamy Ringadoo was administered a new oath of office to become the first President of the Republic.

Mauritius, an uninhabited volcanic island near Madagascar, was known to the Arab travellers, but it was rediscovered by the Portuguese sailors in 1507. It was occupied by the Dutch between 1598 and 1710 who introduced sugarcane, African slave workers and human settlements. Later they abandoned it due to economic problems.

The French occupied it between 1715 and 1810 and made it their colony. Subsequently, it came into British possession.

Nearly 72 per cent of the population of Mauritius is of Indian origin.

PROJECTS

'Project Elephant' launched

THE Centre has launched a multi-crore rupee country-wide programme for protection and conservation of the elephant—the much-loved animal, celebrated in popular folklore.

A sum of Rs 83 lakh has already been released to the States under the programme and a few crore Rupees more are expected to be disbursed during the 1992-93 financial year.

Entitled 'Project elephant', the programme is designed on the lines of its internationally acclaimed predecessor 'Project tiger' and will continue throughout the eighth plan period and probably be extended into the ninth plan as well.

Though the programme contains all the salient features of project tiger, there were several radical departures from the latter. Unlike project tiger, the elephant project will focus on solving problems of humans and elephants competing to share the same habitat.

Besides, the new project is not designed to save the animal from extinction. The population of elephant, which is estimated between 17,000 and 22,000, has registered an eight to ten per cent increase over the past decade. The elephants also do not face any serious threat from the poachers as such.

The ten salient features of 'project elephant' are:

- protection of all the viable populations and their habitats,
- providing corridors linking different parts of the composite elephant range,
- improving the quality of life of the people living in the fringe areas through appropriate eco-development programmes so that their dependence on forests is minimised,
- eradication of weeds like *mikenu* and *lantana* and augmenting the number of fodder trees through appropriate plantation programmes,
- mitigating the problems being caused by the isolated populations of elephants to the local people,
- compensating people for loss of life and property caused by the elephants,
- strengthening of anti-poaching infrastructure,
- improved veterinary care and immunisation of domestic live-stock against communicable diseases,
- restoring the feeling of compassion towards elephants through education campaign and extension programmes, and
- scientific research on various

aspects of management of elephants and their habitats.

MISCELLANY

Medical Science new subject for Civil Services exam

MEDICAL Science is to be introduced as one of the optional subjects in the Civil Services examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) with effect from 1993.

This is in acceptance of a recommendation made in the report of the Professor Satish Chandra Committee, set up by the UPSC to review the present scheme of Civil Services examinations. The committee had been set up in pursuance of a report of the estimates committee of the Seventh Lok Sabha. The government has also accepted a recommendation that doctors and engineers should continue to be eligible for the examination. ✓

Antarctica flowers under Indian hands

INDIAN scientists grew flowers and vegetables on the Antarctica and even got bumper crops of cucumber and tomato for the first time on the icy continent.

Colourful carnations, geraniums, phlox and pentunias bloomed in specially constructed greenhouses, while tomatoes, cucumbers and green leafy vegetable sprouted thanks to a new technique of cultivation developed by the Defence Agricultural Research Laboratory (DARL), at Almora, Uttar Pradesh.

DARL scientists, who were part of the 10th Indian expedition to the Antarctica, pioneered the "protected cultivation" method to grow crops in the cold climate of the continent that is normally hostile to all plant growth.

In the new technique, the climate required for plant growth is generated inside a greenhouse with controlled temperature, humidity, light carbon dioxide, plant nutrition and root environment.

The greenhouse was designed by the research and development establishment in Pune, which like DARL, is a laboratory under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

SPORTS

ARCHERY

14th Senior National Championship

International Archer Limba Ram of Rajasthan retained the gold medal, securing 317 points, in the men's section of the individual grand FITA final of the 14th senior national archery championship held at JRD Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur.

His compatriot Dhulchand Domar with 304 points secured the second spot via the tie-breaker against Kerala's Mukundan who also bagged 304 points.

In the women's category, Luimaola Hunagyo of Manipur became the new national champion securing 318 points in the grand FITA final. Veshozolu Shuro of Nagaland with 311 points won the silver medal while Renuka Roy of Bihar was in the third spot with 304 points.

ATHLETICS

31st Open National Championship

Women from the Railways retained the team championship with a whopping tally of 120 points, while the Food Corporation of India (42) and Life Insurance Corporation (41) finished second and third.

In the men's section Services with 157 points overthrew Railways (107), to bag the top slot. Indian Police finished a close third with 101 points.

The meet was held at Bombay.

30th Inter-State National Championship

Kerala, who had the richest haul of 11 golds, seven silvers and seven bronze medals in the championship, regained the overall championship with an aggregate of 176.5 points, followed by Tamil Nadu with 116 points. To complete the domination of southern States, Karnataka took

the third spot with 112.5 points.

The meet was held at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.

BADMINTON

All-England championship

International Badminton Federation President Arthur Jones issued a warning to countries planning to manipulate the world ranking system for Olympic purposes amid speculation that China had played as a team at the All-England championships.

The speculation arose after world champion Zhao Jianhua had lost in straight games to teammate Liu Jun 15-13, 15-13, in the men's final, a victory which is likely to secure Liu an Olympic place.

The women's singles final was also controversial as world champion Tang Jiahong clashed several times with the Norwegian umpire Rune Hansen for service receiver faults and for twice refusing her time to towel down. Tang however won 9-12, 12-10, 11-1 against South Korean Bang Soo-Hyun.

China also captured the women's doubles title, although there was another surprise in that all-Chinese final as well with world champions Guan Weizhen and Nong Qunhua being edged out 18-14, 18-17 by Lin Yanfen and Yao Fen, the joint third seeds.

Rudy Gunawan and Eddy Hartono became the first Indonesian men's doubles winners for eight years.

Thomas Lund and Pernille Dupont lifted Denmark's first All-England mixed doubles title since 1972.

BASKETBALL

Asian women's championship

China, South Korea and Japan grabbed the first three positions at the Asian women's basketball championship held at Seoul, South Korea.

Defending champions China beat hosts South Korea to win the championship with an unbeaten record of seven wins.

South Korea came in second with a record of five wins against two defeats.

India, who recorded a solitary win against lowly Sri Lanka, finished sixth. Hong Kong were fifth and Sri Lanka went winless.

BRIDGE

Kilachand Cup

India's largest ever prize money tournament, the first Seth Tulsidas Kilachand Gold Cup, was annexed by the Rajhans team, a Bombay-Pune combine.

The tournament was dedicated to the late Sanjay Rajhans, who recently expired within a month of winning his first national title, the Holkar Open. The Rajhans team comprised Pramod Samant (Capt), R. Sridharan, Batu Ukidave, Ashok and Suhas Vaidya.

BOXING

World Bantamweight title

American Edde Cook captured the World Boxing Association (WBA) bantamweight championship by knocking out champion Israel Contreras of Venezuela in the fifth round. The championship was held in Las Vegas, USA.

CHESS

29th National championship

Pravin Mahadev Thipsay emerged the new national champion on a day when backbenchers, R. Balasubramaniam and K.L. Dave, scored stunning victories over international masters, D.V. Prasad, and Ravi Hegde while N. Sudhakar Babu became India's 13th international master in the 29th national chess championship which ended in Patna on March 16, 1992.

This was the fifth occasion that

Thipsay has won the national 'A' title.

10th Linares International championship

Garri Kasparov of Russia defeated Yugoslav Ljubomir Ljubojevic in the last match of the 10th Linares International Chess Tournament to win the title for the second time in three years.

Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand of India defeated Alexander Beliavsky of Spain in 38 moves in the thirteenth and final round of the tournament to finish fifth.

CRICKET

World Cup

Veterans Imran Khan and Javed Miandad combined to lift Pakistan to a 22-run victory over England in the World Cup final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Australia.

The duo—the only players to have played in all five World Cup tournaments—picked up Pakistan's run-rate and combined in a brilliant third-wicket stand of 139.

Pakistan made 249 for six wickets in 50 overs and dismissed England for 227 with four balls remaining to win the Cup for the first time.

England were the beaten finalists for the third time.

Earlier in the first semi-final Pakistan pulled off a dramatic four-wicket victory over New Zealand at Auckland to reach the final of the cricket world Cup for the first time.

In the second semi-final England advanced to world Cup cricket final in controversial circumstances as rain ruined South Africa's desperate run chase.

In a chaotic finish South Africa's run target was amended from 22 off 13 balls to 21 off one ball, drawing outrage from the 28,410 Sydney Cricket Ground crowd. Rain began to drizzle in the 43rd over with South Africa chasing England's 252 for six off 45 overs.

Crowe named man of the series: New Zealand captain Martin Crowe was named as the cricket World Cup's man of the series, winning a Nissan sports car.

The prize was determined by

a panel of cricket experts who voted after each game.

Ranji Trophy

Delhi expectedly won their sixth Ranji Trophy title when they beat Tamil Nadu by virtue of their 83-run first innings lead, the five-day final ending in a tame draw at Kotla in New Delhi.

Ajay Sharma, whose first innings knock of 175 went a long way in the home team getting past the 500-run mark, was named the Charminar challenge 'man of the match' and awarded Rs 15,000.

Vengsarkar quits first class cricket

Dilip Balwant Vengsarkar, the tall and elegant middle-order batsman who is next only to Sunil Gavaskar in the Test run-getter's list from India bid adieu to first class and international cricket on March 17, 1992 after an illustrious career spanning 18 years.

The 35-year-old former Indian skipper had scored 6868 runs in 116 Tests which included 17 centuries since his debut against New Zealand in 1976.

FOOTBALL

48th National Championship

Nearly two decades after Kerala won the Santosh Trophy for the first time at Ernakulam in 1973, they regained it in the Lifebuoy-sponsored 48th national football championship at the Nehru Stadium in Coimbatore.

Kerala defeated Goa 3-0 in the final. For Goa this was the second loss in five appearances in the final.

GOLF

Indian Open championship

Stewart Ginn of Australia won the Indian Open Golf Championship when he returned a card of par 73 to total eight under 284 at the end of the fourth round at the Royal Calcutta golf club course.

Ginn bagged a purse of \$ 24,990 as prize money.

HOCKEY

16th Indira Gold Cup

Central Reserve Police Force defeated Border Security Force, 2-0,

to lift the 16th Indira Gold Cup hockey tournament held in Jammu.

Lal Bahadur Shastri tournament

Namdhari XI beat Northern Railway to clinch the title in the All India Lal Bahadur Shastri hockey tournament held at Shivaji Stadium, New Delhi.

TENNIS

International players Championships

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario lured Gabriela Sabatini into a duel from the baseline and then withstood the Argentine's late charges for a 6-1, 6-4 victory in the women's final at the International players championships.

Courier loses No. 1 ranking

An off-form Jim Courier lost his world number one ranking when he fell to Michael Chang in the semi finals of the 2.8 million dollar Lipton International Players Championships.

Courier, the tournament's defending champion, needed to reach the final to retain his number one ranking but instead lost to his fellow American 6-2, 6-4 to put Sweden's Stefan Edberg back in the top spot.

Indian Open Championship

Second seed and five-time National champion Zeeshan Ali (Calcutta) and unseeded Aradhana Reddy (Tamil Nadu) won the men's and women's singles titles, respectively, of the Standard Chartered Indian Open tennis championship.

Men's doubles: Enrico Piperno and Adam Malik.

Women's doubles: Aradhana Reddy and Aradhana Laxman.

VOLLEYBALL

14th Federation Cup

Maharashtra women lifted the Indira Pradhan Cup, winning the 14th Federation Cup Volleyball Tournament.

Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra tied with three wins in the four league outings, but Maharashtra, who had a better set quotient, were declared winners.

Appointments Etc

Appointed; Elected Etc

Pierre Berégovoy He has been appointed Prime Minister of France

Eduard Shevardnadze The former Soviet Foreign Minister, he has been chosen to head the newly created Georgian State Council which is to be the top political body of the republic till parliamentary elections are held

PJ Patterson He has been appointed Prime Minister of Jamaica

General Sunchinda Kiaprayoon He has been appointed Prime Minister of Thailand

Oscar de La Puente He has been appointed Prime Minister of Peru

R K Dorendia Singh He has been appointed Chief Minister of Manipur

Dipanker Prasad Gupta He has been appointed as the Solicitor General of India

Sudhir Sukaram Devare He has been appointed as Ambassador of India to Ukraine. He is also concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to Georgia

Dalip Mehta He has been appointed Ambassador of India to Uzbekistan. He has also been concurrently accredited as Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan

Resigned

Mrs Edith Cresson Prime Minister of France

Vilson Ahmeti Prime Minister of Albania

Madhavsinh Solanki Minister for External Affairs of India

Distinguished Visitors

Leonid Kravchuk President of Ukraine

Askar Akarov President of Kyrgyzstan

Nguyen Manh Cam Foreign Minister of Vietnam

Lee Hsien Loong Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore

Alain Vivien Minister of State for External Affairs, France

Ms Cecilia Seapaul Speaker of the House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago

Federico Mayor Director-General of UNESCO

Died

G S Dhillon The former Speaker of Lok Sabha. He was 78

Dr Rahu Masoom Raza Well known short story and script writer of Hindi films. He was 64

Agha, Jaan Baig The famous Hindi film comedian

Shriyans Prasad Jain Noted industrialist and philanthropist. He was 84

Isaac Asimov The prolific writer of science fact and fiction. He was 72

EVENTS

MARCH

11—Fifteen top officials of the Indian Acrylic Limited are shot dead by militants in Sangrur in Punjab

12—Mauritius, the Indian Ocean island nation becomes a republic

—The Telugu Desam Parliamentary Party in the Lok Sabha formally splits

14—More than 1000 people are killed as earthquake hits eastern Turkey

—Militants kill twenty persons in Ludhiana, Punjab

17—Whites vote in a referendum on ending three centuries of white rule in South Africa

—Lok Sabha passes the rail budget after the cut-motions are defeated

18—South African whites vote overwhelmingly in favour of President FW de Klerk's political reforms aimed at dismantling apartheid and establishing majority rule.

26—Row over *Tim Bigha* area with Bangladesh is resolved

27—The Nagaland Governor, Dr M M Thomas, dissolves the Assembly at the recommendation of the Chief Minister, Mr Vamuzo

30—Pakistan crackdown foils JKLF bid to cross Line of Control into Kashmir

31—The United Nations Security Council votes to impose trade sanctions and an arms embargo on Libya for failing to surrender suspects in the terrorist bombing of two commercial jetliners. The vote was 10 to 0 with five abstentions. Nine votes were needed for passage

—The Minister for External Affairs of India, Mr Madhavsinh Solanki, resigns following charges that he had sought to influence the Bofors scandal probe by handing over a memorandum to the Swiss Foreign Minister during a recent visit to Switzerland

APRIL

1—Army resumes operation against a section of ULFA militants in Assam

—Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) gets underway

3—Centre clamps President's rule in Nagaland

4—The UN sponsored Earth Summit talks, held in Brazil, fail

5—Italy goes to polls

7—President of Peru, Mr A Fujimori, suspends the constitution and dissolves the congress in a move, he said, was needed to halt Peru's slide into chaos

8—A new Ministry, led by the Congress I Legislature leader, Mr R K Dorendra Singh, is sworn-in ending three months of President's rule in Manipur

—PLO Chief Yasser Arafat survives plane crash in the southern Libyan desert in a howling sandstorm

9—Heavy turnout is reported in UK polls

Quantitative Aptitude

1. What is the least number which when divided by 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 leaves a remainder 1?
(a) 59 (b) 60 (c) 61 (d) 121
(e) None of these
2. By what should 12348 be multiplied in order to make it a perfect square?
(a) 3 (b) 7 (c) 11 (d) 13
(e) None of these
3. 12 men or 24 women can do a piece of work in 28 days. How long will 15 men and 12 women take to do that work?
(a) 12 days (b) 14 days (c) 16 days
(d) 20 days (e) None of these
4. 4 men earn as much as 5 women and 3 women earn as much as 8 boys. If 6 boys earn Rs 36 daily, what are the daily wages of a man?
(a) 20 (b) 22 (c) 24 (d) 25
(e) None of these
5. In an enclosure of a Zoo there are some rabbits and pigeons. If their heads are counted they are 90 while their legs are 224. Find the number of pigeons.
(a) 22 (b) 44 (c) 34 (d) 68
(e) None of these
6. A began business with Rs 4200 and is joined afterwards by B with Rs 7200. When did B join if the profits at the end of the year are divided equally?
(a) 5 months (b) 7 months (c) 8 months
(d) 4 months (e) None of these
7. A and B finish a piece of work in 4 days, B and C do the same in 6 days and A, B and C complete it in 3 days. In how many days will A and C finish the work?
(a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 7
(e) None of these
8. 24 is 60% of:
(a) 30 (b) 40 (c) 50 (d) 60
(e) None of these
9. The mean proportional of 0.25 and .01 is:
(a) .02 (b) .05 (c) .8 (d) 5
(e) None of these
10. The average of the following six numbers is 8. Find the missing number.
5, 4, 7, ?, 11, 13
(a) 14 (b) 12 (c) 10 (d) 8
(e) None of these
11. What % is 13 of 20?
(a) 65 (b) 75 (c) 85 (d) 95
(e) None of these
12. A clerk saves 20% of his monthly salary. If on account of the dearness of things he is to increase his monthly expenses by 20%, he is able to save only Rs 60 per month. What is his monthly salary?
(a) 500 (b) 1000 (c) 1500 (d) 2000
(e) None of these
13. The compound interest on a certain sum for 2 years is Rs 40.80 and the simple interest is Rs 40. Find the sum.
(a) Rs 500 (b) Rs 400 (c) Rs 300 (d) Rs 450
(e) None of these
14. A man lends Rs 1000 in four sums. If he gets 3% for Rs 200, $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ for Rs 400 and 5% for Rs 250, what per cent must he get for the remainder, if his average interest is Rs 3.85 per cent?
(a) 5% (b) 4% (c) 6% (d) 4.5 %
(e) None of these
15. Two men undertake to do a piece of work for Rs 200. One alone can do it in 6 days, the other in 8 days. With the help of a boy they finish it in 3 days. How much is the share of the boy?
(a) Rs 45 (b) Rs 40 (c) Rs 30 (d) Rs 25
(e) None of these
16. What decimal fraction of 3 kilometres is 75 metres?
(a) .0025 (b) .05 (c) .25 (d) .225
(e) None of these
17. What is the least number by which 8400 should be multiplied so that the product may be a perfect square?
(a) 3 (b) 5 (c) 7 (d) 21
(e) None of these
18. The rate of 7 metres of cloth is Rs 29.05, then the cost of 5 metres of cloth is:
(a) 20.75 (b) 21.75 (c) 21.25 (d) 19.75
(e) None of these
19. In a reinvestment plan of 96 months Rs 100 becomes Rs 238.23. If a man desires to have Rs one lac after 8 years for investment in his house, how much he should deposit right now?
(a) Rs 61941.03 (b) Rs 5194.03 (c) Rs 41941.03
(d) Rs 31941.03 (e) None of these
20. 30 grams is what fraction of 1 kg?
(a) $\frac{30}{100}$ (b) $\frac{30}{1000}$ (c) $\frac{100}{30}$ (d) $\frac{1000}{30}$
(e) None of these
21. What will be the area of a square flower bed which has one side of 25 cm?
(a) 25×2 cms (b) $\frac{25}{2}$ sq cms (c) $(25)^2$ sq cms
(d) 25^3 cms (e) None of these

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

22. What will be the depth of a cubic tank if its volume is 729 cubic metre?
 (a) 9 m (b) 27 m (c) 81 m (d) 118 m
 (e) None of these
23. Rs 15 is what percentage of a sum of Rs 375?
 (a) $\frac{1}{4}\%$ (b) 4% (c) $\frac{1}{8}\%$ (d) 8%
 (e) None of these
24. The average age of three boys is 15 years and their ages are in proportion 3 : 5 : 7. What is the age in years of the youngest boy?
 (a) 21 (b) 18 (c) 15 (d) 9
 (e) None of these
25. Viney took a loan for 6 years at the rate of 5% p.a. simple interest. If the total interest paid was Rs 1230, find the principal.
 (a) Rs 4100 (b) Rs 5330 (c) Rs 5000
 (d) Rs 4920 (e) None of these
26. By how much is four-fifth of 70 lesser than five-seventh of 112?
 (a) 42 (b) 22 (c) 24 (d) 40
 (e) None of these
27. If 12 men do a work in 80 days, in how many days will 16 men do it?
 (a) 20 (b) 60 (c) 50 (d) 24
 (e) None of these
28. The average of my marks in 7 subjects is 68. My average in 6 subjects excluding Civics is 70. How many marks did I get in Civics?
 (a) 82 (b) 68 (c) 60 (d) 58
 (e) None of these
29. The number of school admission for computer course is increased by 15% every year. If the number of students in 1987 is 800, what is the expected number of students in 1989?
 (a) 920 (b) 1058 (c) 1040 (d) 1178
 (e) None of these
30. Ram and Sham together have Rs 121 with them. If one-third of Ram's amount equals two-fifths of Sham, how much amount does Sham have?
 (a) Rs 66 (b) Rs 62 (c) Rs 26 (d) Rs 55
 (e) None of these
31. $330 \times 42 + 15 = ?$
 (a) 924 (b) 7260 (c) 4950 (d) 118
 (e) None of these
32. $162.498 - ? = 69.3 + 75$
 (a) 93.198 (b) 87.498 (c) 144.30
 (d) 18.198 (e) None of these
33. 37 is divided into two parts. The first part is multiplied by 5 and the second part is multiplied by 11. Then the total is 227. What is the first number?
 (a) 30 (b) 7 (c) 23 (d) 24
 (e) None of these
34. A train travels at a speed of 36 km/h. The length of the train is 100 metres. How much time it will take the train to cross a telephone pole?
 (a) 5 sec (b) 10 sec (c) 8 sec (d) 100 sec
 (e) None of these

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (a)
5. (d) Let all be pigeons. Their legs = $90 \times 2 = 180$
 Actual legs = 224, Difference = $224 - 180 = 44$
 Difference between the legs of a rabbit and that of a pigeon = $4 - 2 = 2$
 If difference is 2 then rabbit = 1
 If difference is 44 then rabbits = $\frac{1}{2} \times 44 = 22$
 Hence pigeons = $90 - 22 = 68$
6. (a)
7. (a) A's one day's work = $\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{6}$
 C's one day's work = $\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{12}$
 (A + C)'s one day's work = $\frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{12} = \frac{1}{4}$
 Hence A and C will do the work in 4 days
8. (b)
9. (b)
10. (d)
11. (a)
12. (c)
13. (a) C.I. for 2 years = Rs 20 + Rs 20.80
 S.I. for 2 years = Rs 20 + Rs 20.00
 Difference = Rs 0.80
 Now Rs 0.80 is S.I. on Rs 20 for one year
 $\therefore \text{Rate} = \frac{\text{S.I.} \times 100}{P \times T} \text{ or } \frac{.80 \times 100}{20 \times 1} = 4\%$
 Hence Principal = $\frac{\text{S.I.} \times 100}{R \times T} \text{ or } \frac{40 \times 100}{4 \times 2} = \text{Rs } 500$
14. (b)
15. (d) Two men's one day's work = $\frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{7}{24}$
 Two men's and boy's one day's work = $\frac{1}{3}$
 Boy's one day's work = $\frac{1}{3} - \frac{7}{24} = \frac{1}{24}$
 Ratio of the three's one day's work
 $= \frac{1}{6} : \frac{1}{8} : \frac{1}{24} \text{ or } 4 : 3 : 1$
 Boy's share = $\frac{1}{8} \times 200 = \text{Rs } 25$
16. (e) .025
17. (d)
18. (a)
19. (c)
20. (b)
21. (c)
22. (a)
23. (b)
24. (d)
25. (a)
26. (c)
27. (b)
28. (e) 56
29. (b)
30. (d)
31. (a)
32. (d)
33. (a)
34. (b)

GENERAL AWARENESS

The questions given in this feature have been specifically framed for the benefit of candidates opting for "History" as their optional subject in the forthcoming I.A.S. examination.

These questions have been prepared after thorough study of history books by well-known authors covering the period from Ancient India to the present day.

The study of these questions will be found useful for other administrative services examinations as well.

HISTORY

1. The advent of the 16th century marks the beginning of the three new forces in India. The first of these forces was:

- (a) the religious revival or the so-called Bhakti Movement
- (b) the discovery of the sea-route to India by Vasco da Gama, and the consequent advent of the European nations in the country
- (c) the beginning of the Mughal rule at Delhi
- (d) None of these

2. Kabir, whose origin is shrouded in mystery, was a disciple of:

- (a) Ramanuja
- (b) Rama Nand
- (c) Chaitanya
- (d) Tuka Ram

3. The year 1498 is a landmark in world history because:

- (a) it transformed the relations between the East and the West
- (b) it brought India into contact with the renaissance western world
- (c) the history of modern commerce in India began after this date
- (d) Portugal, which looked upon India as "a second Peru", thought of establishing a dominion in India
- (e) All the above statements are correct

4. The kingdom of Vijaynagar

was found in the extreme south in India in 1336 by two brothers Hari Har and Bukka in the reign of:

- (a) Muzaffar Shah-II
- (b) Firoz Shah Tughlak
- (c) Mohd-bin-Tughlak
- (d) Ibrahim Lodhi

5. Babar won a decisive victory over Ibrahim Lodhi in the first battle of Panipat (1526) because:

- (a) he had a numerous force numbering more than one lakh men
- (b) he had superior strategy and generalship and the use of artillery for the first time in India
- (c) he went to the battle hurriedly with a sudden attack
- (d) None of these

6. The battle of Kanwah (1527), one of the decisive battles of Indian history, resulted in the:

- (a) establishment of Hindu Empire by Rana Sanga
- (b) reclaiming of Kalpi, Dholpur, Biyana and Agra (all of which had been occupied by Babar) by Rana Sanga
- (c) defeat of the powerful Rajput confederacy by Babar
- (d) None of these

7. Which of the following is NOT correct?

- (a) The Mughal rule came to an end after the second battle of Panipat (1556) and the Afghan rule began instead
- (b) The second battle of Panipat made Akbar the king of Agra, Delhi and the adjoining districts
- (c) The victory of Akbar in the second battle of Panipat frustrated all the hopes of the Hindus to establish their own rule in India
- (d) The second battle of Panipat established the importance of Akbar as an "able general" at his young age
- (e) The Afghan rule came to an

end after the second battle of Panipat and the Mughal rule began instead

8. The Mansabdari system was introduced by:

- (a) Babar
- (b) Sher Shah
- (c) Akbar
- (d) Humayun

9. Tulsi Dass, the author of *Ram Charit Manas*, was one of the greatest Hindi poets in the days of:

- (a) Shah Jehan
- (b) Aurangzeb
- (c) Chandragupta-II
- (d) Akbar
- (e) None of these

10. Who translated *Babar's Memoirs* from Turki to Persian?

- (a) Tardi Beg
- (b) Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan
- (c) Munim Khan
- (d) Bairam Khan

11. Guru Arjan Dev was executed by Jahangir in 1605 on persuasion of:

- (a) Prince Khusro
- (b) Chandu Shah
- (c) Man Singh
- (d) Asaf Khan

12. The name of the first husband of Nur Jahan was:

- (a) Sher Afghan
- (b) Kutub-ud-Din Koka
- (c) Kishwar Khan
- (d) Jahangir

13. Which one of the following is NOT correct?

- (a) Nurjahan, after her marriage with Jahangir, was the real power behind the throne
- (b) She reduced her husband (Jahangir) to the position of a puppet in her hands
- (c) She desired to place Shahr-yar, her son-in-law, (Her daughter Ladli Begum was from her first husband) upon the throne after Jahangir
- (d) Nurjahan, the daughter of Mirza Ghyas, was a Turkish by birth

14. Which is NOT TRUE?

- (a) Malik Ambar, an Abyssinian minister of Ahmednagar, was the first man who trained the Marathas (in the Ahmednagar army) in their famous guerilla method of warfare
- (b) He was one of the greatest generals and statesmen of mediaeval India
- (c) He was a favourite of Nurjahan
- (d) He organised a fresh revenue system more or less on the lines of Todar Mal
- (e) None of these

15. The kingdom of Mewar which had been defying the Mughal authority since the days of Babar, was conquered in the days of:

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Jahangir
- (c) Shahjahan
- (d) Sher Shah Suri

16. The real name of Shahjahan was:

- (a) Prince Khurram
- (b) Prince Khusró
- (c) Prince Parvez
- (d) Shahryar
- (e) Prince Dara

17. Arjumand Banu Begum, daughter of Asaf Khan, was also known as:

- (a) Nurjahan
- (b) Jahanara
- (c) Mumtaz Mahal ✓
- (d) Roshanara

18. Who among the sons of Mughal Emperor Shahjahan, translated the *Upanishads* and had great respect for *Vedas*?

- (a) Aurangzeb
- (b) Shah Shuja
- (c) Murad
- (d) Dara

19. The name of Shivaji's mother was:

- (a) Rajas Bai
- (b) Tara Bai
- (c) Jija Bai
- (d) Sorra Bai

20. Which of the following is NOT correct?

- (a) Hussain Ali and Abdullah were known as Sayyid Brothers
- (b) They rose to power in the days of Mughal Emperor Farrukhsiyar (1713-19)
- (c) They were Sunnis by faith
- (d) They were much opposed to the reactionary policy of

Aurangzeb

- (c) They formed a Hindustani party, which included the Hindus and the Moham-madans as its members

21. Shuja-ud-Dowlah (1754-75) was an important figure in the history of northern India. Which of the following is NOT correct about him?

- (a) He played a very important part in the Battle of Buxar (1764)
- (b) He was also connected with the Rohilla War
- (c) He, along with other Mohammadan princes such as Mir Kasim of Bengal and Emperor Shah Alam-II drove the English out of India
- (d) He was son of Satdar Jang

22. The Mughal dynasty was finally extinguished with:

- (a) Shah Alam-II
- (b) Alamgir-II
- (c) Ahmed Shah
- (d) Bahadur Shah-II ✓
- (e) Akbar-II

23. The first Peshwa, appointed on Nov 16, 1713, by Sahu was:

- (a) Balaji Vishwanath
- (b) Baji Rao I
- (c) Balaji Baji Rao
- (d) Madho Rao

24. Which of the following statements is NOT correct about the third Battle of Panipat (1761)?

- (a) It closed the history of the Mughal Empire
- (b) It made the field clear for the third power viz, the English
- (c) It decided the fate of India
- (d) It crushed the Maratha power completely and for ever

25. Of the following six sources of Maratha Revenue System the two most important were:

- (a) Sardeshmukhi
- (b) Chauth
- (c) Bakti
- (d) Mokasa
- (e) Sahotra
- (f) Nadgaunda

26. Vasco-da-Gama, a Portuguese navigator, reached the port of Calicut and thus discovered the sea-route to India on:

- (a) April 22, 1298
- (b) April 22, 1398
- (c) April 22, 1498
- (d) April 22, 1598

27. A tax on cultivation of melons was imposed in the:

- (a) Maratha System of Administration
- (b) Aurangzeb's System of Administration
- (c) Akbar's System of Administration
- (d) None of these

28. In the Administrative system of which of the Indian rulers was the custom duties known as *nahatarfa* and *jakat* were imposed?

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Jahangir
- (c) Aurangzeb
- (d) Marathas

29. The Peshwa's Secretariat at Poona or the Central Government was known as:

- (a) Peshwa capital
- (b) the centre of power
- (c) the Hazur Daltar
- (d) the Revenue Office

30. The artillery under the Maratha military system of Peshwas was manned and commanded by

- (a) the Portuguese and Indian Christians
- (b) the persons drawn from northern India and trained under the command of foreign officers
- (c) the Marathas themselves
- (d) foreign officers only

31. The original name of Banda Bahadur, a Rajput of Dogra tribe was:

- (a) Nihang Dev
- (b) Lachhman Das ✓
- (c) Maya Das
- (d) Devi Das

32. Which of the following circumstances were favourable for the Portuguese settlements in India in the beginning?

- (a) they took advantage of the jealousy among the small princes on the Malabar coast
- (b) they found that there was no State worth the name which could make sustained efforts to prevent their establishment
- (c) their warships were more formidable than any ships they met in Indian waters
- (d) All the above

33. The "Blue Water" policy is attributed to:

- (a) Houtman
- (b) Albuquerque
- (c) Captain Hawkins
- (d) Don Francisco de Almeida

34. The East India Company

was established in the year:

- (a) 1500 (b) 1600
(c) 1664 (d) 1744

35. Pondicherry was founded by:

- (a) Dumas
(b) Dupleix
(c) Martin ✓
(d) La Bourdonnais

36. Which battle in the Carnatic Wars (1746-61) definitely proved for the first time the superiority of European arms and discipline over the traditional Indian methods of warfare?

- (a) The battle of San Thomas
(b) The third Carnatic war
(c) The battle of Plassey
(d) The battle of Baxar

37. Who was the Nawab of Bengal when the tragedy of Black-Hole occurred?

- (a) Ali Vardi Khan
(b) Mir Jaffar
(c) Sarfraz Khan
(d) Siraj-ud-Dowlah ✓

38. Who deserted Siraj-ud-Dowlah and joined the English under Lord Clive when the Battle of Plassey (1757) was raging with utmost fury?

- (a) Rai Durlab
(b) Mir Jaffar
(c) Jagat Seth
(d) Amin Chand

39. The arrangement called "Double Government" was introduced by:

- (a) Dupleix
(b) Albuquerque
(c) Clive
(d) Mir Jaffar

40. An extra allowance called *Double Bhatta* was granted to the English troops by:

- (a) Mir Jaffar ✓
(b) Shah Alam II
(c) Najam-ud-Dowlah
(d) None of these

41. Which Act was the first legislative interference by the British Parliament in the affairs of India?

- (a) The Declaratory Act, 1781
(b) Fox's India Bill, 1783
(c) Pitt's India Bill, 1784
(d) The Regulating Act, 1773

42. The rule of which Governors-General of India falls into four periods?

- (a) Warren Hastings ✓
(b) Lord Cornwallis
(c) Lord Wellesley
(d) Lord Minto

43. The second Sikh war took place during the period of:

- (a) Lord Hastings
(b) Lord Dalhousie ✓
(c) Lord Canning
(d) Lord William Bentinck

44. The second Mysore war came to an end by the:

- (a) Treaty of Mangalore
(b) Treaty of Salbai
(c) Treaty of Mysore
(d) Treaty of Seringapatnam

45. Which of the following is NOT TRUE of the system of *Permanent Settlement* of land in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa carried out by Lord Cornwallis with the help of Sir John Shore?

- (a) The chief feature of the Permanent System was to oust Zamindars when others offered to pay more in shape of land revenue
(b) The Zamindars who had hitherto been mere collectors of revenue were declared absolute proprietors of the soil and the revenue payable by them was fixed in perpetuity
(c) The Zamindars were not liable to eviction except on the ground of non-payment of revenue
(d) It removed the evils of periodic assessment which led to evasion, concealment of wealth and the throwing of land out of cultivation

46. Who is known as the founder of Indian Civil Service?

- (a) Sir John Shore
(b) Lord Minto
(c) Lord Dalhousie
(d) Lord Cornwallis ✓

47. In whose regime during the British period was "*Samachar Darpan*", the first vernacular paper, published?

- (a) Lord Minto
(b) Marquis of Hastings
(c) Lord William Bentinck
(d) Lord Curzon

48. Which is true about the Doctrine of Lapse enunciated by Lord Dalhousie?

- (a) the sovereignty, when the natural heirs of the royal line came to an end, should pass on to an adopted son
(b) the sovereignty in such a case could not pass on to an adopted son but should

pass back to the supreme power

- (c) the adoption of the policy of "Lapse" was welcomed by the native rulers

49. The 1857 mutiny first broke out on May 16 at:

- (a) Meerut ✓
(b) Cawnpore (Kanpur)
(c) Delhi
(d) Lucknow

50. According to the Government of India Act of 1935, India had been divided into:

- (a) 9 provinces
(b) 11 provinces ✓
(c) 13 provinces
(d) 15 provinces

51. The Kushans extended their conquests over Kashmir and north-west India and ruled these territories for more than:

- (a) 50 years (b) 60 years
(c) 70 years (d) 100 years ✓

52. The permit which protected the East India Company (after 1757) from inspection and payment of customs, freely used for every kind of transaction, was called:

- (a) dastak (b) aurang
(c) jakat (d) gomatscha

53. The most important among the bankers of Bengal in the eighteenth century before overthrow of Mir Qasim by the English, was the house of the:

- (a) Nawabs
(b) East India Company
(c) Jagat Seths
(d) Shroffs

54. *Tattwabodhini Patrika*, a journal of the Brahmo Samaj under the editorship of Akshay Kumar Datta, was started by:

- (a) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
(b) Dwarkanath Tagore
(c) Debendranath Tagore
(d) Kalinath Roy

55. The first issue of *Bombay Darpan*, a weekly in Marathi, published on the 12th November, 1832, was started by a moderate reformer named:

- (a) Jagannath Shankar
(b) Bal Shastri
(c) Vishnu Shastri
(d) Krishna Shastri

56. Who, among the following, was the first reformer in Maharashtra to challenge the old authorities and the old traditions?

- (a) Ram Balkrishna Jayakar

- (b) Ranade
(c) Lokahitawadi
(d) Joshi
57. The first cotton mill had been started in Bombay in the year:
(a) 1838 (b) 1848
(c) 1850 (d) 1858
58. *Bombay Samachar*, the first newspaper started in Bombay, was a venture by the:
(a) Parsees (b) Hindus
(c) Gujaratis (d) Sindhis
59. Which of the following is NOT TRUE?
(a) The period of fifty years following the revolt of 1857 was characterised by the rapid growth of national consciousness
(b) Indian static economy, like trade, transport and communications started undergoing transformation during this period
(c) Due to continuous growth of population, the Indian masses were exposed to mounting distress in this period
(d) There was improvement in agriculture during this period
60. In *Ryotwari* land revenue system in India:
(a) the government dealt directly with the cultivators
(b) a middleman intervened between the cultivator and the government as a landlord
(c) the village body as a whole or a group of zamindars were treated in a body as the owners of land
(d) None of these
61. The first 21 miles of railway line were laid in the year:
(a) 1850 (b) 1851
(c) 1852 (d) 1853
62. Before 1858, India faced a critical balance of payment situation. Which of the following reasons are correct?
(a) India had begun to import large quantities of British manufacture
(b) The prices of the few articles of exports like indigo were falling in the British market
(c) Opium wars had dealt a heavy blow to the trade in one of the principal foreign exchange earning product of India
(d) Indian handicraft had been destroyed
(e) All the above are correct
63. Industrial development in India in the nineteenth century was deliberately neglected by Great Britain as a result of:
(a) self-interest of the ruling groups of England
(b) not creating any new industry to take place of handicraft
(c) non-diversification of occupations to cope with explosion of population
(d) encouraging growth of capitalist industry which earns higher and quicker profits
(e) its preference for foreign enterprise in exploiting natural resources against national interest, and foreign entrepreneurs for use of Indian raw materials over their producers
64. The first jute mill in India was started by a Scot, George Acland, in:
(a) 1854 (b) 1855
(c) 1858 (d) 1859
65. Which of the following is NOT correct about the fifty years of direct rule of India by the British Crown from 1858 to 1908?
(a) Foundation was laid of modern industry and mining
(b) Prices rose and so did profits
(c) There was a great increase in the number of joint stock companies
(d) The country went through a series of calamities and millions died for sheer want of food
(e) India's foreign trade did not improve
66. The opium trade with China was stopped by the British Viceroy in India, Lord Minto-II, in 1907 because:
(a) Indian opium manufacturers may not become addicted to it
(b) British Indian Government was suffering losses in this trade
(c) the Chinese Government desired it as the opium habit was ruining the manhood of Chinese
(d) the Indian Government wanted to prevent smuggling of opium to China
67. *Komagata Maru* was:
(a) a township in South Africa where Mahatma Gandhi started civil disobedience
(b) a town in Punjab where more than 300 persons were killed by indiscriminate firing by British forces
(c) the name of a Japanese steamship carrying about three hundred Indians, mostly Sikhs, to enter British Columbia in Western Canada
(d) the name of a steamship which collided near the port of Calcutta killing about 300 Punjabi Sikhs
68. Who proclaimed: "We have not the slightest intention of abandoning our Indian possessions and that it is highly improbable that any such intention will be entertained by our posterity."
(a) Lord George Hamilton
(b) Lord Curzon
(c) Joseph Chamberlain
(d) Lord Dufferin
69. The material for the history of Kashmir is to be found in:
(a) Kalhana's *Rajatarangini*
(b) Hieun Tsiang's travel notes
(c) Sir Aurel Stein's writings
(d) Mirza Haider Daghlat's *Tarikh-i-Rashidi*
70. The earliest of the Chauhan rulers of Sambhar in Rajputana was:
(a) Jaga Deva Chauhan
(b) Prithvi Raj Chohan
(c) Bisala Deva Chauhan
(d) Someswara Chauhan
71. *Mudraraksasa* was written by:
(a) Bhavbhuti
(b) Visakhadatta
(c) Bhatta Narayana
(d) Rajasekhara
72. The most famous king of the Chalukya dynasty who ascended the throne in 611 A.D. was:
(a) Pulakesan-II
(b) Visnuvardhana
(c) Vikramaditya-I
(d) Rajendra Chalukya
73. The earliest Muslim invaders of Hindustan were:
(a) Mongols
(b) Turks
(c) Arabs
(d) Mughals
74. Mohd-bin-Qasim invaded

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

Sindh in the year:

- (a) 710 A.D.
- (b) 711 A.D.
- (c) 712 A.D.
- (d) 715 A.D.

75. The land tax imposed by Mohd-bin-Qasim after the Arab occupation of Sindh was called:

- (a) Sadqah
- (b) Khiraj
- (c) Waqf
- (d) Jezia

76. The author of *Tarikh-i-Yamini* was:

- (a) Utbi
- (b) Firishta
- (c) Ibn Asir
- (d) Al-Beruni

77. Prithvi Raj Chohan was defeated by Mohammad Ghoris in the battle of Tarain in 1192 A.D. because:

- (a) the Hindu generals did not understand the efficacy of mobile cavalry in dealing with the enemy
- (b) his fellow Rajput princes did not rally round his banner
- (c) his forces had less number of horses and elephants
- (d) Hindu cavalry could not check the advance of the Muslims when the battle commenced.

78. Delhi, Mirat (Meerut) and Kol (a fortress near Aligarh) were conquered in 1192-93 A.D. by:

- (a) Rai Pithaura
- (b) Qutab-ud-din Aibek
- (c) Muhammad bin Bakhtiar Khilji
- (d) Rai Jaichandra

79. Who is known as the greatest of the slave kings?

- (a) Shams-ud-din Iltutmish
- (b) Qutab-ud-din Aibek
- (c) Sultan Reziya
- (d) Bahram Shah

80. Copper coins were issued by:

- (a) Ala-ud-din Khilji
- (b) Firuz Tughlaq
- (c) Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq
- (d) Muhammad Tughlaq

81. Who described Muhammad Tughlaq as the 'wonder of the age' in his travel accounts?

- (a) Ibn Batuta
- (b) Firishta
- (c) Barani
- (d) Al-Badaoni

82. The transfer of capital from Delhi to Daulatabad (new name of Devagiri) by Muhammad Tughlaq took place in:

- (a) 1325-26 A.D.
- (b) 1326-27 A.D.
- (c) 1327-28 A.D.
- (d) 1329-30 A.D.

83. Who is known as one of the "Scourges of God"?

- (a) Mahmud Ghazni
- (b) Ahmed Shah Abdali
- (c) Chingiz Khan
- (d) Timur

84. Qutab Minar near Delhi was originally:

- (a) 202 ft high
- (b) 222 ft high
- (c) 242 ft high
- (d) 232 ft high

85. Who among the following succeeded to the throne of Delhi after Iltutmish?

- (a) Rezia Sultan
- (b) Nasir-ud-din Mahmud Shah
- (c) Ghiyas-ud-din Balban
- (d) Jalal-ud-din Khilji

86. *Padmavat*, the famous poem describing the story of queen Padmini, was written by:

- (a) Firishta
- (b) Amir Khusro
- (c) Barani
- (d) Malik Muhammad Jayasi

87. The immediate cause of the invasion of Mewar by Alauddin Khilji in 1303 A.D. was:

- (a) to capture the fort at Mewar
- (b) to obtain possession of Rani Padmini, renowned for her beauty all over Hindustan
- (c) to teach a lesson to the Rajputs
- (d) to make his son prince Khizer Khan as ruler of Chittor

88. The city of Ahmedabad on the left bank of the Sabarmati river, was built by:

- (a) Muzaffar Shah
- (b) Tatar Khan
- (c) Nasir-ud-din Muhammad Shah
- (d) Ahmad Shah

89. Who, among the following, was the first Muslim ruler of Delhi who penetrated into the Deccan?

- (a) Alauddin Khilji
- (b) Ahmad Shah
- (c) Muhammad Tughlaq
- (d) Ali Adil Shah

90. The last king of the Hoysala dynasty was:

- (a) Krishna Nayak

- (b) Hari Hara
- (c) Virupakasa Ballala
- (d) Pratapa Rudra Deva Kakatiya

91. The Bahamani Kingdom was founded in 1347 by:

- (a) Hasan
- (b) Mujahid Shah
- (c) Husain Nizam Shah
- (d) Ali Adil Shah

92. One of the most distinguished and powerful kings of Vijaynagar empire was:

- (a) Ram Raja
- (b) Sadasiva Raya
- (c) Achyuta Deva
- (d) Krishna Deva Raya

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|---------|---|---------|
| 1. (a) | 2. (b) | 3. (e) |
| 4. (c) | 5. (b) | 6. (c) |
| 7. (a) | 8. (c) | 9. (d) |
| 10. (b) | 11. (b) | 12. (a) |
| 13. (d) | ("Persian" instead of "Turkish") | |
| 14. (c) | 15. (b) | 16. (a) |
| 17. (c) | 18. (d) | 19. (c) |
| 20. (c) | (They were Shias by faith.) | |
| 21. (c) | 22. (d) | 23. (a) |
| 24. (d) | 25. (a) & (b) | |
| 26. (c) | 27. (a) | 28. (d) |
| 29. (c) | 30. (a) | 31. (b) |
| 32. (d) | | |
| 33. (d) | (He was the first Viceroy of the Portuguese possessions in India. His "Blue Water" policy was to be powerful at the sea instead of building fortresses on Indian land.) | |
| 34. (b) | 35. (c) | 36. (a) |
| 37. (d) | 38. (b) | 39. (c) |
| 40. (a) | 41. (d) | 42. (a) |
| 43. (b) | 44. (a) | 45. (a) |
| 46. (d) | 47. (b) | 48. (b) |
| 49. (a) | 50. (b) | 51. (d) |
| 52. (a) | 53. (c) | 54. (c) |
| 55. (b) | 56. (c) | 57. (c) |
| 58. (a) | | |
| 59. (d) | (Agriculture remained stagnant.) | |
| 60. (a) | 61. (d) | 62. (e) |
| 63. (d) | (The growth of capitalistic industry was aborted.) | |
| 64. (b) | 65. (e) | 66. (c) |
| 67. (c) | 68. (b) | 69. (a) |
| 70. (c) | 71. (b) | 72. (a) |
| 73. (c) | 74. (c) | 75. (b) |
| 76. (a) | 77. (a) | 78. (b) |
| 79. (a) | 80. (d) | 81. (a) |
| 82. (b) | 83. (c) | 84. (c) |
| 85. (a) | 86. (d) | 87. (b) |
| 88. (d) | 89. (a) | 90. (c) |
| 91. (a) | 92. (d) | |

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The questions given below were set in the BSRB Patna Gramin Bank recruitment examination held on December 1, 1991

We thank Shri Ajay Kumar Singh of Patna for sending these questions to us.

Q. 1-10. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

There was once a shepherd boy who used to graze his sheep in a meadow on the outskirts of a village near the woods. Every morning, the shepherd boy would take his sheep out to graze. In the evening he would take them home. It was a dull life and the young shepherd used to get quite bored. Sometimes he would play his flute, sometimes he would sing. But he wished something would happen sometimes to liven up the day.

One morning he decided to play a practical joke on the labourers working in some nearby fields. He shouted "wolf, wolf, wolf", at the top of his voice and pretended to be terrified. The labourers rushed to his rescue with sticks and stones and looked around for the wolf. The shepherd boy burst out laughing and said he was only joking. The labourers took it in good humour and went back to their work.

Some days later, feeling bored, the shepherd boy played the same trick on the labourers again. They ran to his help, but, he only laughed loudly at having taken them in once more.

But it so happened that one day, a wolf really did come out of the woods and got in among the boy's sheep. The boy was very much frightened and yelled as loud as he could: "wolf, wolf, wolf".

The labourers took no notice. They thought quite naturally that it was the boy up to his tricks again. The shepherd boy shouted and shouted, but it was of no use. No one came to his help and the wolf killed all his sheep.

1. Which of the following statements is TRUE in the context of the passage?

- (a) The shepherd boy really enjoyed grazing his sheep in the meadow.
- (b) The sheep belonged to the labourers.
- (c) The labourers were working in the shepherd boy's field.
- (d) One morning the labourers decided to play a practical joke on the shepherd boy.
- (e) The shepherd boy laughed at the labourers when they came to help him.

2. The labourers did not run to help the shepherd boy because:

- (a) they thought that he was playing the same trick on them.
- (b) they were afraid of the wolf.
- (c) they did not want to help the shepherd boy.
- (d) they were busy with their work in the fields.
- (e) they could not hear the shouts of the shepherd boy.

3. One day a wolf really came out of the woods and:

- (a) killed the shepherd boy.
- (b) destroyed the crops in the fields.
- (c) terrified the labourers.
- (d) killed all the sheep.
- (e) ran after the shepherd boy.

4. Which of the following statements is not TRUE in the context of the passage?

- (a) The shepherd boy did not get help from any one when he actually needed it.
- (b) The shepherd boy was delighted to see the wolf coming out of the woods.
- (c) The labourers had rushed to help the shepherd boy on two occasions.
- (d) Sometimes the shepherd boy played his flute while grazing his sheep.

(e) The labourers took it lightly when the shepherd boy played a trick on them.

5. What did the shepherd boy do when a wolf came out of the woods?

- (a) He took no notice of the wolf.
- (b) He did not try to seek any help.
- (c) He decided to play a joke on the labourers.
- (d) He got frightened and started shouting for help.
- (e) He started laughing loudly.

6. Everyday, the shepherd boy used to:

- (a) shout, "wolf, wolf, wolf", at the top of his voice.
- (b) take his sheep out to graze.
- (c) play his trick on the labourers.
- (d) shout at the labourers and ask for help.
- (e) work with the labourers in some nearby fields.

Q. 7-8 Choose the word which is most nearly the SAME in meaning:

7. notice

- (a) help
- (b) attention
- (c) chance
- (d) warning
- (e) advice

8. took

- (a) considered
- (b) laughed
- (c) enjoyed
- (d) agreed
- (e) pretended

9-10. Choose the word which is most OPPOSITE:

9. nearby

- (a) lengthy
- (b) close
- (c) different
- (d) distant
- (e) separated

10. dull

- (a) brilliant
- (b) busy
- (c) boring
- (d) superior
- (e) pleasant

Q. 11-20. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. The no. of that part is the answer. (5) for No error.

11. When lightning (1) struck all the (2) people in the house (3) were slept (4). No error (5).

12. Most of the students (1) in

the class failed (2) because the examination (3) was as difficult (4). No error (5).

13. Mohan advised to (1) his son not to (2) play with the ball (3) on the road (4). No error (5).

14. Neither Sandhya nor her (1) sister Sangeeta is (2) willing to come (3) with us for picnic (4). No error (5).

15. Most of the employees (1) did not attend office (2) yesterday on account (3) to heavy rains (4). No error (5).

16. Mr Agarwal is (1) more succeeded than (2) any other lawyer (3) in this city (4). No error (5).

17. No other businessman (1) in this city is (2) as wealthy than (3) my friend (4). No error (5).

18. Had he been driving (1) his car fast he (2) should have lost control (3) and hit the boy (4). No error (5).

19. The policemen were (1) unsuccessful for arresting (2) the thieves even (3) after a month (4). No error (5).

20. No sooner I came (1) home from office (2) than I started writing (3) a letter to my friend (4). No error (5).

Q. 21-30. Pick out the most effective word from the given words to fill in the blank to make the sentence meaningfully complete:

21. His family members advised him to _____ the operation.

- (a) underpass (b) underlie
(c) undergo (d) underset
(e) undertake

22. His mother is _____ old as my grandmother

- (a) so (b) far
(c) more (d) very
(e) as

23. _____ from me, none of his relatives is staying in Bombay.

- (a) apart (b) otherwise
(c) except (d) although
(e) rather

24. Minu was referred to a doctor as soon as she started _____ of headache.

- (a) developing (b) paining
(c) knowing (d) blaming
(e) complaining

25. This land was _____ to him by his uncle two years back.

- (a) gave (b) given
(c) give (d) giving

(e) gives

26. I am not going to leave this place _____ he comes.

- (a) as (b) afterwards
(c) until (d) soon
(e) without

27. I had hardly _____ the letter when the lights went off.

- (a) wrote (b) writing
(c) write (d) writer
(e) written

28. The Taj Mahal is more beautiful _____ any other monument in the country.

- (a) of (b) between
(c) than (d) to
(e) after

29. Shrikant _____ his bag missing when he came back to take it.

- (a) took (b) got
(c) found (d) made
(e) state

30. To prevent the students _____ damaging public property, police used tear gas.

- (a) from (b) at
(c) of (d) against
(e) by

Q. 31-35. One of which can replace the word printed in BOLD without changing the meaning of the sentence. Find out the appropriate word in each case:

31. The incident affected him so much that he could not forget it for several days.

- (a) upset (b) changed
(c) controlled (d) influenced
(e) reminded

32. An enquiry was ordered to ascertain the actual cause of the accident.

- (a) show (b) determine
(c) prove (d) investigate
(e) contradict

33. The members were reasonable enough to maintain silence during the party meeting.

- (a) determined (b) peaceful
(c) sensible (d) attentive
(e) careful

34. The meeting was adjourned after discussing on the matter for about two hours.

- (a) postponed (b) stopped
(c) begun (d) reviewed

(e) continued

35. In the meeting, some members passed adverse remarks against the chairman.

- (a) dangerous
(b) unnecessary
(c) severe
(d) humorous
(e) unfavourable

Q. 36-40. Rearrange the following sentences in proper sequence so as to make a meaningful paragraph.

- (A) He was standing in the queue to catch the bus.
(B) He turned around and looked at me.
(C) But, he did not recognise me.
(D) Yesterday, I happened to see my old friend.
(E) I called out his name.

36. Which of the sentences should come third in the paragraph.

- (a) A (b) B (c) C
(d) D (e) E

37. Which of the sentences should come fourth in the paragraph.

- (a) A (b) B (c) C
(d) D (e) E

38. Which of the sentences should come last in the paragraph.

- (a) A (b) B (c) C
(d) D (e) E

39. Which of the sentences should come first in the paragraph.

- (a) A (b) B (c) C
(d) D (e) E

40. Which of the sentences should come second in the paragraph.

- (a) A (b) B (c) C
(d) D (e) E

ANSWERS

1. (e) 2. (a) 3. (d) 4. (b)
5. (d) 6. (b) 7. (b) 8. (c)
9. (d) 10. (e)
11. (4) 'were sleeping'
12. (4) 'very difficult'
13. (1) 'Mohan advised' (omit 'to')
14. (5) No error
15. (4) 'of heavy rains'
16. (2) 'more successful than'
17. (3) 'as wealthy as'
18. (3) 'would have lost control'
19. (2) 'unsuccessful in arresting'
20. (1) 'no sooner did I come'
21. (c) 22. (e) 23. (a) 24. (e)
25. (b) 26. (c) 27. (e) 28. (c)
29. (c) 30. (a) 31. (d) 32. (b)
33. (c) 34. (a) 35. (e) 36. (e)
37. (b) 38. (c) 39. (d) 40. (a)

TEST OF REASONING—I

ANALOGIES

In each of the following questions there is some relationship between the two groups of letters to the left of the sign (:). The same relationship obtains between the group to the right of the sign (:) and one of the four alternative letter groups under it. This alternative is your answer, so tick mark (✓) the right choice from A, B, C and D.

1. PNDY : QMEX :: JRSF : ?
 (a) KQRE (b) KSTE
 (c) KSRE (d) KQTE
2. MKOH : GNJL :: LPVB : ?
 (a) CWQM (b) AUOK
 (c) CUQK (d) AWOM
3. ZKTP : ATWT :: NKYF : ?
 (a) OLZG (b) OMBJ
 (c) MJXE (d) OLZJ
4. CAZE : EZVG :: SPOT : ?
 (a) UQPU (b) ROQU
 (c) UKOV (d) UOKV
5. DFWU : EGVU :: NSHQ : ?
 (a) ORGR (b) MTGR
 (c) OTGP (d) OTIR

In each of the following questions, a pair of words has been given. Tick-mark your answers:

- (a) if one is the product of the other.
- (b) if one is the cause of the other.
- (c) if one is the opposite of the other.
- (d) if one belongs to the other
6. reluctant—willing
7. ward—hospital
8. opium—poppy
9. stubborn—submissive
10. administration—management
11. wine—vine
12. compensation—accident
13. misunderstanding—rift
14. pollution—industrialization
15. pillow—bed

NUMBER SERIES

Find out the missing number in the series given below:

16. 1; 3; 7; 15; .., 63.

17. 12; 23; 34; 45; 54; ...; 32; 21.

18. 3; 6; 11; 18; 27;

19. 5; 4; 9; 13; 22;; 57.

20. 3; 24; 8; 40; 5; 35; 7;; 6.

21. 1; 4; 9; 16; 1; 8;

In each of the following number series one term is wrong. Find out this term from the four alternatives given under it.

22. 3; 7; 9; 15; 23; 33.

- (a) 7 (b) 9
(c) 15 (d) 33

23. 616; 308; 154; 77; 34.

- (a) 308 (b) 154
(c) 77 (d) 34

24. 17; 26; 38; 50; 65.

- (a) 17 (b) 38
(c) 50 (d) 65

25. 27; 9; 18; 8; 12; 4.

- (a) 9 (b) 18
(c) 8 (d) 4

26. 97; 86; 73; 62; 49; 38.

- (a) 86 (b) 62
(c) 49 (d) 38

27. 5; 6; 10; 19; 36; 50.

- (a) 6 (b) 19
(c) 36 (d) 50

LETTER SERIES

In each of the following letter sequences some letters have been left out and are given in the same order in one of the four alternatives. Your task is to tick mark (✓) the right choice.

28. a-bacba-bac-ac-a

- (a) cabb (b) cbab (c) ccbb (d) bcbb

29. ca-b-ccaab-cc-ab

- (a) acba (b) bcab (c) abba (d) bbaa

30. a-abaacab-ac-baaca-a

- (a) caab (b) bcba (c) bcab (d) cbab

31. c-ab-cbab-cb-bccba

- (a) abbc (b) bbca (c) baca (d) bcca

32. ab-aab-cca-abb-ccc

- (a) caba (b) cbab (c) bbca (d) bcac

In questions given below, a lead word has been

followed by four alternatives. One of these alternatives has some relationship with the lead word which is different from the other three. Tick-mark this alternative.

33. SPECULATION

- (a) SPECIAL (b) TOPIC
(c) NATION (d) CAUTION

34. PARTICULAR

- (a) PECULIAR (b) STRAP
(c) PICTURE (d) CRUEL

35. ENCOURAGE

- (a) REVENGE (b) RFNEW
(c) NATURE (d) CRAZE

36. CAMPAIGN

- (a) PAGANS (b) CAGE
(c) PAINT (d) POINT

37. MAGAZINE

- (a) GAZE (b) NAME
(c) MAIN (d) AGAIN

38. CONVENTION

- (a) INVENTION (b) CONTENT
(c) INJECTION (d) CONNECTION

CODING-DECODING

In questions 39 to 45, words on the left are written in their coded form on the right, each small letter representing one of the letters from the word. Your task is to find out the right code letter for the letter in the word enclosed in a box and tick mark the right choice from A, B, C, D, E, F and G accordingly.

- | | A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 39. N U C L E A [R] → | g | b | y | z | v | j | f |
| 40. H O [S] T I L E → | c | q | d | k | z | y | x |
| 41. A G A I N [S] T → | m | f | b | f | c | d | k |
| 42. L E C T U R [E] → | v | j | d | y | z | g | z |
| 43. [P] A I N T E R → | f | j | z | k | w | d | b |
| 44. G E [S] T U R E → | z | c | j | g | d | z | m |
| 45. E [M] O T I O N → | h | x | k | z | b | x | d |

According to a certain code:

- 'Your box is heavy' is 1+2+3+4
'Box has no contraband' is 3+5+6+7
'Gold is a contraband' is 1+7+8+9
'Heavy gold has value' is 2+6+9+10

46. Here, '6' stands for

- (a) contraband (b) gold
(c) has (d) heavy

47. 'Heavy contraband is profitable' will be

- (a) 2+3+7+11 (b) 3+7+8+11
(c) 1+7+8+11 (d) 1+2+7+11

MIRROR IMAGE

Tick-mark the mirror image of the word from the four alternatives given.

48. MYSELF

- (A) MY2ELF (B) FLE2YM
(C) FLESYM (D) FLE2YM

49. GRAZE

- (A) 3ZAR3 (B) 33AR3
(C) 3R333 (D) 3R333

50. SUNDAY

- (A) YADNU2 (B) YADNU2
(C) 2UNDAY (D) 2UNDAY

LOGICAL DEDUCTIONS

A team of four is to be selected from boys A, B, C, D, E, F and G according to the following statements:

- D and B must be together.
- F and E must not be together.
- B and G must not be together.
- G and A must be together.
- C and D must not be together.

51. Which of the following is the right team?

- (a) ABCD (b) ACEG
(c) ACFG (d) ABDE

Four ladies A, B, C and D and four gentlemen E, F, G and H are seated around a table as follows:

- D is between E and G.
- F is to the right of C.
- H is between C and A.
- B is to the left of E.
- G and A are near one another.

52. Who is to the right of D?

- (a) B (b) E
(c) G (d) H

53. F is between.

- (a) B and C (b) A and C
(c) D and C (d) G and C

In a room there are some tables, chairs, tripods (three legs) and children. The ratio between tables+chairs and children is 2 : 1. There are 20 chairs more than tripods and 8 chairs less than tables. The total number of legs is 396.

54. What is the number of tables and tripods?

- (a) 36 and 8
- (b) 44 and 16
- (c) 50 and 22
- (d) 40 and 12

55 How many children are there?

- (a) 42
- (b) 48
- (c) 36
- (d) 40

56 The salary of John is Rs 500/- more than Abdul and Rs 350/- less than Rakesh who gets Rs 200/- less than Satwant Singh. If the total of the salary of these four is Rs 13000/-, how much does Satwant Singh get?

- (a) Rs 3650/-
- (b) Rs 4000/-
- (c) Rs 4500/-
- (d) Rs 3550/-

Six villages A, B, C, D, E and F are situated as follows:

B is two miles to the south of A

C is two miles to the east of B

E is two miles to the south of C

D is two miles to the west of F

A is three miles to the north of D

57 Which four villages are in a line?

- (a) ABFF
- (b) ABDF
- (c) BCEF
- (d) BDEF

58 If the value of each letter is calculated according to its position in the alphabetical order, what will be the value of DOLLAR?

- (a) 62

- (b) 66
- (c) 70
- (d) 72

According to a survey, 15000 persons were asked which toothpaste from A, B, C, D and E did they use. The statistics showed that 22% used A, 31% used B, 17% used C, 19% used D and 11% used E.

59 How many more persons use B in comparison to C?

- (a) 2100
- (b) 1950
- (c) 2050
- (d) 2000

60 If margin of profit on D is 30 paise per tube and on A it is Rs 2/- per ten, who is earning more and how much in that particular area of 15000 persons?

- (a) A, Rs 155/- more
- (b) D, Rs 35/- more
- (c) D, Rs 195/- more
- (d) A, Rs 45/- more

61 If 20% of the persons using F are suffering from dental problems, what is the number of persons who use F with healthy teeth?

- (a) 1235
- (b) 1310
- (c) 1320
- (d) 1335

62 If the cost of C is Rs 6.50 per piece and of D, Rs 6/- per piece, how much more is D earning than C?

- (a) Rs 475/-
- (b) Rs 525/-
- (c) Rs 490/-
- (d) Rs 500/-

NON-VERBAL SERIES

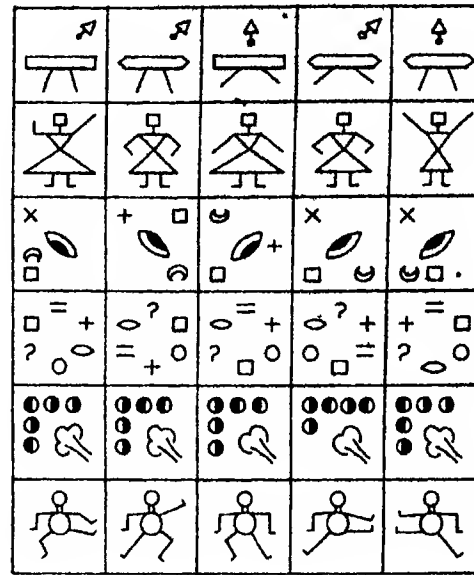
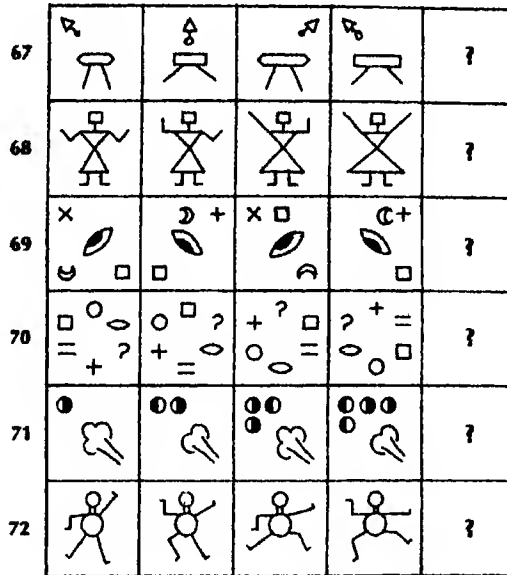
Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures marked A, B, C, D and E. You have to find out which of the Answer Figures would be the next one to the Problem Figure.

PROBLEM FIGURES

63					
64					
65					
66					

ANSWER FIGURES

A	B	C	D	E



ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (d) First and third letters are next ones, second and fourth, the preceding ones.
 2. (b) The next set has preceding letters in reverse order.
 3. (b) The gap in letters increases by one.
 4. (d) First and fourth letters have gap of one, the second one is the preceding one and the third letter has gap of three letters.
 5. (c) First two letters are next ones, the remaining are preceding ones.
 6. (c) 7. (d) 8. (a) 9. (c)
 10. (d) 11. (a) 12. (b) 13. (b)
 14. (a) 15. (d)
 16. 31. Numbers 2, 4, 8, 16, 32... are added respectively.
 17. 43. The digits of first four numbers are reversed.
 18. 38. Add 3, 5, 7, 9, 11... to numbers respectively.
 19. 35. Add two preceding numbers to get each number
 20. 42. Each alternate number is the product of numbers on its right and left.
 21. 27. First four numbers are squares of 1, 2, 3 and 4 and the next ones are cubes.
 22. (a) The number ought to be 5, the difference in numbers being 2, 4, 6, 8, 10...
 23. (d) Each next number is half of the preceding number hence 34 ought to be 38.5.
 24. (b) The numbers are 4^2+1 ; 5^2+1 ; 6^2+1 ; 7^2+1 ...
 25. (c) Make sets of two; each next number is 1/3 of the preceding number.
 26. (a) Numbers 11 and 13 are deducted simultaneously.
 27. (c) The series is $5+1^2=6$; $6+2^2=10$; $10+3^2=19$; $19+4^2=35$...
 28. (c) The series is acb/acb/acb/...
 29. (c) The series is aabbcc/aabbcc/...
 30. (a) The series is acaba/acaba/aca...
 31. (d) The series is cbabc/cbabc/cbabc...
 32. (b) The series is abc/aabbcc/aaabbbccc...
 33. (c) The other words have used all the letters from the lead word, here one N is extra.
 34. (b) In all the other words the letter 'E' has been used besides letters from the lead word. Here it is 'S'.
 35. (a) In other words only one letter is outsider, here they are two, V and an extra E.
 36. (d) Same as in question 35.
 37. (b) In all the other words, letters taken out from the word are arranged in the same order.
 38. (c) Same as in questions 35 and 36.
- For answering questions 39 to 47, sort out common letters/words and match them with codes by finding out the same code against the same letter or word occurring elsewhere.*
- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 39. F | 40. G | 41. C | 42. F |
| 43. E | 44. B | 45. A | 46. (c) |
| 47. (d) | 48. (D) | 49. (B) | 50. (B) |
| 51. (c) | 52. (c) | 53. (a) | 54. (d) |
| 55. (c) | 56. (a) | 57. (b) | |
| 58. (a) $4+15+12+12+1+18=62$. | | | |
| 59. (a) | 60. (c) | 61. (c) | 62. (b) |
- For answering these questions, observe each figure individually. The figures may move clockwise, anti-clockwise, right and left, diagonally, top to bottom and vice-versa or in a triangle at a definite pace. The figures sometimes tilt, change direction, change shape or get bigger and smaller alternately or regularly. Sometimes a figure is added or removed. Study the relationship among the figures and then choose your answer.*
- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 63. D | 64. B | 65. C | 66. B |
| 67. E | 68. A | 69. E | 70. C |
| 71. B | 72. D | | |

TEST OF REASONING—II

ODD-MAN

Find the odd-man out:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. (a) vagabond | (b) retarded |
| (c) ruffian | (d) truant |
| (e) scamp | |
| 2. (a) boil | (b) pimple |
| (c) mole | (d) sty |
| (e) cyst | |
| 3. (a) rhinoceros | (b) cow |
| (c) camel | (d) deer |
| (e) ram | |
| 4. (a) stadium | (b) stage |
| (c) rink | (d) court |
| (e) arena | |
| 5. (a) shampoo | (b) cream |
| (c) powder | (d) vaseline |
| (e) lipstick | |
| 6. (a) flash | (b) lottery |
| (c) bridge | (d) tambola |
| (e) race-course | |
| 7. (a) grape | (b) guava |
| (c) orange | (d) malta |
| (e) pine-apple | |
| 8. (a) gift | (b) reward |
| (c) donation | (d) prize |
| (e) award | |

ANALOGIES

Words in the questions given below have a definite relationship. Tick-mark the choice with similar relationship.

9. penguin : Antarctica
 (a) tiger : Arctic
 (b) whale : Bay of Bengal
 (c) kangaroo : Australia
 (d) camel : Bengal
10. sword : iron
 (a) curd : milk
 (b) gun : bullet
 (c) stick : walking
 (d) bomb : destruction
11. traffic : road
 (a) car : garage
 (b) blood : veins
 (c) roots : tree
 (d) aeroplane : aerodrome

12. scarlet : colour

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| (a) sheet : quilt | (b) leaf : plant |
| (c) drink : food | (d) cancer : zodiac |

13. idle : lazy

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) costly : expensive | (b) thief : murderer |
| (c) castle : king | (d) humour : laugh |

14. excitement : dullness

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| (a) happiness : joy | (b) luggage : load |
| (c) tender : rough | (d) rub : clean |

15. court : trial

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) train : travel | (b) school : teachers |
| (c) jail : prisoners | (d) language : literature |

16. stage : theatre

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) hospital : treatment | (b) book : newspaper |
| (c) road : traffic | (d) kitchen : home |

17. parrot : bird

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| (a) tiger : jungle | (b) teak : wood |
| (c) mountain : valley | (d) orange : apple |

Five members of an orchestra party, Bipin, Sheela, Sarla, Mahesh and Ramesh play violin, guitar, flute, tabla and sitar but not in the same order. Your task is to match the right parts on the basis of the facts given below:

Bipin and Sheela do not play tabla.

Mahesh and Ramesh do not play guitar or violin.

Sitar is not played by Sarla and Ramesh.

Sheela and Sarla do not play guitar.

Mahesh does not play sitar and tabla.

18. Bipin (a) violin

19. Sheela (b) guitar

20. Sarla (c) flute

21. Mahesh (d) tabla

22. Ramesh (e) sitar

Maya is shorter than Asha but taller than Shanta who is taller than Pooja. Nirmala is taller than Manju but shorter than Asha who is shorter than Rekha.

23. The tallest and the shortest persons in the same order are:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| (a) Rekha and Shanta | (b) Asha and Shanta |
| (c) Nirmala and Manju | (d) Rekha and Pooja |

24. If all the girls stood according to their heights starting from the tallest, the fourth one would be:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| (a) Maya | (b) Asha |
| (c) Nirmala | (d) Manju |

Four members Shiv, Manju, Priti and Akash have a definite amount of money.

If Shiv gives Rs 5/- to Manju he would have Rs 16/- less than Manju and double of Akash.

If Manju gives Rs 3/- to Shiv, she would have double of Priti and as much as Shiv.

If Priti gives Rs 2/- to Akash both will have an equal amount, if however, she takes Rs 2/- from Akash, she would have double of Akash.

25. Shiv at present has:

- (a) Rs 29/- (b) Rs 36/- (c) Rs 25/- (d) Rs 15/-

26. Priti has:

- (a) Rs 14/- (b) Rs 16/- (c) Rs. 18/- (d) Rs 21/-

At a certain restaurant, Chander, Geeta, Lata and Tribhuvan order Coffee, Limca, Gold Spot and Thums-up, but not in the same order. Match the right parts on the basis of the statements given:

First letter of the name of the drink and the name of the person who ordered the drink is not common.

Tribhuvan and Lata did not take Coffee.

Limca was not ordered by Tribhuvan.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 27. Chandra | A. Coffee |
| 28. Geeta | B. Limca |
| 29. Lata | C. Gold Spot |
| 30. Tribhuvan | D. Thums-up |

SYLLOGISM

TYPE I

In questions given below a situation has been explained in statements I and II followed by a conclusion. You have to say whether the conclusion:

- (a) necessarily follows from the statements.
 (b) is only a long drawn one.
 (c) definitely does not follow from the statements.
 (d) is doubtful, as the data provided is inadequate.

Note: Your answers should only be in the light of the statements given.

Statements:

31. 1. Industrialists and business executives often meet at formal dinners or luncheons.
 2. They mix business with rich three or five star food.

Conclusion: Business can't be discussed on an empty stomach.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

32. 1. Thousands of families belonging to Kashmir have fled from there to other parts of India.
 2. Militants have indiscriminately killed hundreds of innocent people.

Conclusion: These families had no security there.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

33. 1. Mr 'X', the Field Marshal of a certain army was an ordinary soldier in the beginning.
 2. 'Y' is an ordinary soldier in the same army.

Conclusion: 'Y' will become Field Marshal after a certain period.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

34. 1. The Chief coach of game 'X' declared that our team was in good shape and the game had improved tremendously.
 2. The team could not score a single point during International Tournaments.

Conclusion: The game of other countries had improved still more.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

35. 1. Customers stock their homes with all sorts of necessities and other items according to their pocket at the end of February.
 2. Budget is announced on the last day of February.

Conclusion: Prices often go up after a new budget due to increase in taxes.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

36. 1. Many mud houses collapse during heavy rains.
 2. A mud house collapsed yesterday.

Conclusion: There was a heavy rain yesterday.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

37. 1. After accidents, limbs with fractures or dislocation are put in a plaster.
 2. A plaster has been put over the arm of a new born baby.

Conclusion: The baby had an accident.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

TYPE II

In questions given below a statement has been followed by implications I and II. Apply the implications to the statement and tick-mark your answers as under:

- (a) Only I is implicit.
 (b) Only II is implicit.
 (c) Both I and II are implicit.
 (d) Either I or II is implicit.
 (e) Neither I nor II is implicit.

Statement:

38. The government of country X has decided to shrink its army.

Implications:

- I. The economy of the country is not very sound.
 II. The country is not anticipating any war in near future.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

39. A voluntary environmental audit scheme has been proposed for protection of environmental system in

industrial areas by the European Commission.

Implications:

- I. There is too much pollution around industrial area.
 - II. The EC wants to protect environment.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

40. Indian manufacturers involved in export business are often unsure of what customers want.

Implications:

- I. Indian manufacturers are not sufficiently intelligent and observant.
 - II. Demands of customers change fast.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

41. The health of rural women is the last on the priority of their men-folk.

Implications:

- I. The rural women always remain healthy.
 - II. They can easily manage their farms and families without women.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

42. Most of the royal families have property disputes.

Implications:

- I. There are too many claimants.
 - II. The members of royal families want easy inherited money collected by their forefathers
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

43. Some medicines in the market are manufactured at places other than where registered.

Implications:

- I. It is not easy to get firms registered.
 - II. Some unregistered firms are manufacturing medicines illegally.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

44. Many elite kids are involved in violent crimes.

Implications

- I. Too many crime movies and crime fiction affect them in an adverse way and they set out for wrong type of adventure.
 - II. Their parents remain busy with their own activities and devote no time to children to inculcate moral values in them.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

45. Tourists seeking peace and tranquility go to Andaman and Nicobar islands.

Implications:

- I. These beautiful islands are still far from the madding crowd.
 - II. A peaceful living relieves tensions.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

46. For every competitive examination, a portion of Mathematics is prescribed in the syllabus.

Implications:

- I. Every job requires mathematical ability.
 - II. Mathematics is the easiest subject.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE III

In making decisions about important questions, it is desirable to be able to distinguish between 'strong' arguments and 'weak' arguments so far as they are concerned with the question. 'Weak' argument may not be directly related to the question, may be of minor importance or may be related to some trivial aspect of the question. Each question given below is followed by two arguments numbered I and II. You have to decide which of the arguments is 'strong' and which is 'weak'. Then decide which of the answers given below and numbered (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) is the correct answer.

- (a) Only I is strong.
- (b) Only II is strong.
- (c) Both I and II are strong.
- (d) Either I or II is strong.
- (e) Neither I nor II is strong.

47. Do we still have colonial hang-over?

- I. Yes, we treat the whitemen as masters.
- II. No, we are a self respecting independent nation and our courteous behaviour towards the whitemen is only a part of our traditional politeness towards guests.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

48. Are ads with child stars more successful?

- I. Yes, children act better than grown-ups.
- II. No, the spectators prefer glamorous grown-up persons.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

49. Are parks essential in big cities?

- I. Yes, a patch of green is absolutely essential among stone and brick constructions for a breath of fresh air and to stretch limbs in thickly populated cities.
- II. No, they occupy big space which could house many families and could bring much revenue to the govt through its sale.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

50. Are countries, that have thrown away communism and have formed a Commonwealth of Independent States going to be more successful and prosperous in future?

- I. Yes, their co-founders and leaders have new plans and are sure of improvement in existing conditions.
- II. No, so many independent States cannot work together with joint economic and military policies for long and are bound to have clashes.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

51. Do International Film Festivals promote better cultural understanding among nations?

I. Yes, so many different cultures with the same human emotions are seen on the silver screen in all their perspectives, discussed and understood.

II. No, the Film Festivals are only glamorous and show-biz activity and the only understanding reached is the financial one.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

52. Should banks have a right to seize private property as loan recovery procedure?

I. Yes, the clever debtors have made it a habit to get loans from the banks and then not pay it back.

II. No, loans are sanctioned to provide better living and better job prospects, not to deprive people of what they already have.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE IV

Read the instructions given below carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Some entrepreneurs have applied to the government to grant them permission to establish cement factories. The govt will grant the permission after the following conditions are satisfied.

1. The applications on prescribed forms must have reached the Head-Office on or before 14th November 1991 with name of the factory proposed.

2. The site proposed should not be more than 10 kilometres from the main road nor less than 1 kilometre.

3. The plants to be installed should have the approval of the government.

4. There should be no other cement factory within a range of 50 kilometres.

5. The owners of the proposed factories must have obtained NOC (No Objection Certificate) from the Board of Environmental Preservation.

6. The proposed owners must have a deposit of at least 10 millions in their accounts.

7. Cement should be in demand in the State.

The concerning Minister can give special sanction to the owners if:

(i) the application reaches the department on or before 30th Nov '91, thus giving a relaxation of about a fortnight.

(ii) the plant is not approved by the Indian government but is being used in some foreign country.

(iii) the owner has a deposit of 5 millions only but people are prepared to buy shares for the remaining amount.

The Commissioner of the department concerned can give special sanction to the parties if:

(i) the proposed sight is less than 50 kilometres from other factories but cement is very much in demand.

(ii) the proposed site is more than 10 kilometres from the road.

(iii) the Board of Environmental Preservation put an objection because there were green fields nearby but the owners are prepared to install anti-pollution plants in their factories.

Note: No case shall go to both, the Minister and the Commissioner.

Mark your answers as under:

A. The permission was directly granted as all the conditions were fulfilled.

B. Permission was not granted as some required information is lacking.

C. Permission was granted on the recommendation of the Minister.

D. Permission was granted on the recommendation of the Commissioner.

E. Permission was denied.

53. Arun Cement Works applied on 17th Oct '91. There is no cement factory nearby, the nearest one being 65 kms away. It is 7 kms from the main road. The party is financially sound with a deposit of 15 millions, and proposes to install government approved plant and the area needs cement.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

54. Bharat Cements applied on 3rd Dec '90. They have a deposit of 30 millions in their account and have received NOC. There is not much demand of cement in that area as one cement factory is 35 kms and another 17 kms from the proposed site which is 16 kms from the main road. They propose to install a plant which is approved by the government.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

55. Cement India has proposed a site 5 kms from the road where cement is in great demand as there is no factory for 75 kms. The entrepreneur applied on 16th Dec '90, got NOC and want to install a plant which is being successfully used in France for a decade. Their deposits are 5 millions but applications of persons prepared to buy shares worth 12 millions.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

56. Durga Cements applied on 26th Nov '91. The proposed site is 9 kms from the main road and there is no cement factory around for 62 kms. They have not obtained NOC but propose to install anti-pollution plant as well as a government approved plant. There is great demand of cement in the area and the party has a deposit of 15 millions.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

57. Ellora Cement Works have a deposit of 12 millions, have obtained NOC and propose to install a govt approved plant. There is no other factory for 55 kms hence there is a great demand in the area. The proposed site is 8 kms from the main road and they applied on

2nd Sept '91.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

58. Fair Dealers applied on 14th Nov '91. Cement in the area is highly in demand although a small factory is 38 kms away. The proposed site is 6 kms from road and the plant to be installed is approved by the govt. They shall be installing anti-pollution plant as there are green fields around. The party has a deposit of 22 millions.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

59. Govind Cements, with 40 millions in account applied on 29th Nov '91. The proposed site is 7 kms from the main road. Cement is much in demand the other factory being 52 kms away. They want to install a plant which is very popular in Spain and have obtained NOC.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

60. Happy Cement Works have selected a site 3 kms from the main road. Cement is much in demand the other factory being 58 kms away. They have obtained NOC and are going to install government approved plant. They applied on 25th Nov '90 and have 14 millions in their accounts.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

61. Indian Cement Works propose to build a factory at a place which is 4 kms from the main road and there is no competitor for 60 kms around. They obtained NOC from the E.P. department and applied for the permission on 12th Oct '91.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

62. Jaya Cements have chosen a site where cement is so much in demand that a factory 34 kms away is unable to meet it. They have an account of 14 millions, have obtained NOC and propose to install govt approved plant. They applied on 3rd June '91 and the site is 6 kms from the main road.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

TYPE V

In questions given below, statements 1 and 2 are followed by conclusions I and II. Taking the statements to be true although they may seem at variance with commonly accepted facts, tick-mark your answers as follows:

- A. Only I follows.
- B. Only II follows.
- C. Both I and II follow.
- D. Either I or II follows.
- E. Neither I nor II follows.

Statements:

- 63. 1. Some bricks are flowers.
- 2. All flowers are oranges.

Conclusions:

- I. Some oranges are bricks.
- II. Some bricks are not oranges.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

Statements:

- 64. 1. All candles are diamonds.
- 2. All diamonds are fans.

Conclusions:

- I. All candles are fans.
- II. All fans are candles.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

Statements:

- 65. 1. All books are dictionaries.
- 2. Some dictionaries are magazines.

Conclusions:

- I. All magazines are dictionaries.
- II. Some magazines are books.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

Statements:

- 66. 1. Some beggars are leaders.
- 2. Some leaders are robbers.

Conclusions:

- I. Some robbers are beggars.
- II. Some robbers are not beggars.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

Statements:

- 67. 1. Only those millionaires are industrialists who are not businessmen.
- 2. Only those industrialists are farmers who are not shop-keepers.

Conclusions:

- I. Some farmers are businessmen.
- II. No shop-keeper is a businessman.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

TYPE VI

Each of the questions below consists of a question and two statements numbered I and II given below it. You have to decide whether the data provided in the statements are sufficient to answer the question. Read both the statements and give answer:

- A. if the data in statement I alone are sufficient to answer the question.
- B. if the data in statement II alone are sufficient to answer the question.
- C. if the data in I and II are necessary to answer the question.
- D. if the data either in I or in II alone are sufficient to answer the question.
- E. if the data in both I and II are not sufficient to answer the question.

68. What is the secret of a box-office-hit-movie?

- I. The cast includes famous stars.
- II. The story-writer and the director are aware of the latest craze, tastes and demands of the general public.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

69. Who among A, B, C and D was driving the car

when it met with an accident?

- I. B and D do not know driving.
- II. C drives rashly but was sleeping.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

70. How many minutes are there in an hour?

- I. There are 24 hours in a day.
- II. There are 60 seconds in each minute.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

71. Why are most of the T.V. serials granted 13 episodes?

- I. 13 is considered to be a lucky number for some
- II. The policy of the DD is to plan for one quarter of a year, hence 13 episodes.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

72. What is the salary of Mr X?

- I. It is somewhere between Rs 4900/- and Rs 5000/-.
- II. The amount he receives can be divided by 101

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

73. Who among A, B and C is not speaking the truth?

- I. A and B do not tell lies.
- II. B and C are not telling the same thing.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

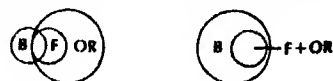
ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (b) All the others are negative qualities acquired by a person.
2. (c) It is a birth-mark while others are painful growths or skin-eruptions.
3. (c) All the others have single or two horns.
4. (b) It is the only one not related with games.
5. (d) All the others fall in the category of cosmetics.
6. (c) It requires skill as well.
7. (b) All the others are juicy fruits.
8. (c) It is a form of charity while others are given for commendable performance.
9. (c) The relationship is that of creature and the place where it is found in abundance.
10. (a) One is made from the other.
11. (b) One flows through the other.
12. (d) Just as scarlet is one of the colours, cancer is one of the signs of zodiac.
13. (a) They almost mean the same.
14. (c) The words are opposites.
15. (a) Just as trials are carried out in courts in the same way trains are for travelling.
16. (d) One is a part of the other.
17. (b) One is a particular item of the other.
18. (b) 19. (e) 20. (a) 21. (c) 22. (d)
23. (d) The order being Rekha, Asha, Nirmala, Manju, Shanta and Pooja.
24. (d) 25. (c) 26. (a) 27. B
28. A 29. D 30. C 31. (c)

32. (a) 33. (d) 34. (a) 35. (a)
36. (b) 37. (b) 38. (d) 39. (c)
40. (b) 41. (e) 42. (c) 43. (b)
44. (c) 45. (a) 46. (e) 47. (b)
48. (e) 49. (a) 50. (d) 51. (a)
52. (c)
53. B. No mention of NOC.
54. E. No demand, hence permission can't be granted as there are two factories already.
55. C. Minister's sanction—French Plant and Shares.
56. E. No case shall get consideration from the Minister and the Commissioner. (Note).
57. A. All conditions are fulfilled.
58. D. Distance and anti-pollution plant.
59. C. Date and Spanish plant.
60. A. All conditions are fulfilled.
61. B. Type of plant and accounts are not mentioned.
62. D. Distance to be considered by the Commissioner.

Questions 63 to 67 type are best answered by drawing diagrams for all probabilities and then reaching the final truth.

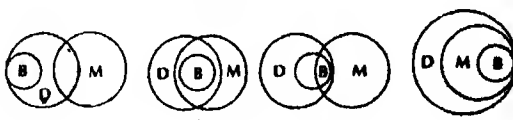
63. C



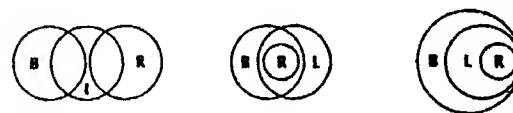
64. A



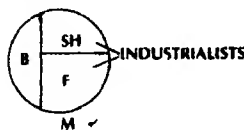
65. F



66. D



67. B



68. B. I is only one aspect, II is enough.
69. C. The conclusion cannot be reached without both.
70. E. No statement gives relation between hour and minutes.
71. B. Seems reasonable enough.
72. C. There is only one number, 4949 between the given range that can be divided by 101.
73. A. First statement is enough.

Improve Your Word Power

1 **adumbrate**: (a) support (b) advise (c) suggest (d) defend

2 **broadside**: (a) appreciation (b) approval (c) attack (d) deception

3 **calibrate**: (a) celebrate (b) marry (c) mark (d) define

4 **denims**: (a) jeans (b) trousers (c) over-coat (d) socks

5 **eavesdrop**: (a) walk (b) listen (c) overtake (d) overlook

6 **fuzzy**: (a) bright (b) blurred (c) muddy (d) distant

7 **gumption**: (a) perspiration (b) thirst (c) initiative (d) inspiration

8 **hector**: (a) bully (b) dance (c) compose (d) sympathise

9 **inventory**: (a) invention (b) discovery (c) research (d) list

10 **jell**: (a) distort (b) subvert (c) irritate (d) take shape

11 **libel**: (a) reward (b) criticism (c) amusement (d) slander

12 **numismatist**: (a) expert (b) reformer (c) collector (d) player

13 **outfit**: (a) baggage (b) group (c) complaint (d) explanation

14 **paunch**: (a) heart (b) packet (c) pocket (d) stomach

15 **regurgitate**: (a) suppress (b) float (c) give (opinion) (d) fly fast

16 **salacious**: (a) sweet (b) decent (c) indecent (d) urgent

17 **tribulation**: (a) sacrifice (b) survival (c) defiance (d) suffering

18 **whodunit**: (a) detective story (b) religious narration (c) epic poem (d) exhibition

19 **yen**: (a) longing (b) request (c) advice (d) practice

20 **zealot**: (a) jealous (b) fanatic (c) rival (d) devotee

ANSWERS

1 **adumbrate**: (c) suggest, indicate, fore-shadow

—The memory of the past *adumbrates* the fate of the living

2 **broadside**: (c) attack (fierce in words)

—The Prime Minister delivered a *broadside* at the advocates of human rights for their silence on the killings of innocent persons by militants

3 **calibrate**: (c) mark, correct, rectify

—India *calibrates* its moves in a special situation in the light of its national interests

4 **denims**: (a) jeans

—The company, which not too long ago, was in poor financial shape, is today on the crest of the *denims* wave

5 **eavesdrop**: (b) listen, bug, overhear

—When parents were discussing Ram's wayward behaviour, he was *eavesdropping* the discussion

6 **fuzzy**: (b) blurred, indistinct

—Since the light was poor, the photographs have come out all *fuzzy*

7 **gumption**: (c) initiative, self-reliance, common-sense

—He is a nice enough lad, but he does not seem to have much *gumption*

8 **hector**: (a) bully, torment, domineer

—In the joint family, none had the courage to face the grandfather when he spoke in a *hectoring* tone of voice

9 **inventory**: (d) list, tally, count

—When the house was being auctioned, a complete *inventory* of house-hold goods was kept

10 **jell**: (d) take shape, become definite

—Great thinkers have to undergo varied experiences before their ideas *jell*

11 **libel**: (d) slander, defamation

—The interview was an absolute *libel* on the character and conduct of an honest public servant

12 **numismatist**: (c) collector (coins and medals)

—From a mere stamp collector my friend has become a renowned *numismatist* also

13 **outfit**: (b) group, equipment organization kit

—It is feared that the new policy may benefit only a small publishing *outfit*

14 **paunch**: (d) stomach, belly (fat)

—You are getting quite a *paunch* from drinking a lot of beer

15 **regurgitate**: (c) vomit, disgorge, give (opinion)

—In order to prove his pseudo-scholarship, my friend is simply *regurgitating* stuff remembered from lectures

16 **salacious**: (c) indecent, obscene

—The editor who dared tantalise (excite) his readers with *salacious* exposure of the dictator's personality soon found himself behind the bars

17 **tribulation**: (d) suffering, trouble

—Human life comprises trials and *tribulations* and we should bear them bravely

18 **whodunit**: (a) detective story/play

—Her latest *whodunit* created quite a stir among readers and critics

19 **yen**: (a) longing, yearning

—Many young men and women have a strong *yen* to visit foreign countries

20 **zealot**: (b) fanatic, bigot, enthusiast

—Many a time *zealots* do more harm to religion than the atheists

National Policy on Education

"If we can combine vision with pragmatism, political will with economic resourcefulness, international solidarity with national commitment, the expertise of the educators with the fresh contribution of the media, science and technology, the business community, voluntary organisations and many others, then and only then, the struggle to bring education to all can be won."

(Mr Frederico Mayor,
Director General, UNESCO)

READ with the solemn sermon that applies more to the appalling conditions of mass illiteracy and ignorance among peoples of the Third World, the situation in India as far as education—primary, secondary and higher—is none too happy to be allowed to drift any further. Today India has nearly 459 million illiterates which is equal to the population of USA and UK. The gains achieved in literacy which went up from 60 million in 1951 to 247 million in 1981 have been more than neutralised with the alarming increase in population. It is now felt that the removal of illiteracy has to be taken up as a people's movement. It is such movements that were able to eradicate the curse of illiteracy in countries like Cuba, Brazil, Chile and Nicaragua.

Although a number of Commissions have gone through the entire gamut of education, past and present, since 1947, it was only in 1985 that the ministry of education issued a document called "The Challenge of Education" describing the situation on the educational front and taking up pertinent issues in the right earnest. The document had stated unambiguously that while decisions taken would cost something, decisions not taken would cost even

more. So the policy of drift, followed all these decades, has been expensive and highly detrimental to the constitutional pledge of compulsory elementary/primary education for all. Even now after all the pious declarations and deliberations in various fora and committees we seem nowhere near the goal of universal literacy and much heart-searching needs to be done if we mean business in the field of education. Swami Vivekananda had said: "Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man."

The policy formulated in 1986—'The National Policy on Education'—had three principal areas of thrust. One was to make good the systematic neglect of elementary education, the second was to vocationalise secondary education and the third was to improve standards of performance at the higher and professional level. One thing that comes across clearly from the reading of the Ramamurti Committee report is that it is at the elementary level that the country defaulted most grievously and it is there that systematic and unwavering action requires to be taken. The committee has made out a strong case for integrating early childhood care and education and the minimum needs programme. Unless the two are integrated it is unrealistic to expect any perceptible and meaningful progress on the plane of elementary education.

The committee has gone into considerable detail about how it is to be done, the manner of changes needed in administrative procedures, funding and so on and what magnitude of effort will have to be made

to translate into actual and concrete shape the basic thrust of 'National Policy on Education'.

'Operation Blackboard', however limited in scope and impact, did produce some commendable results. With Central assistance to States in this particular area of action and periodic assessment, the results are beginning to show but the magnitude and contours of the problem are so stupendous, that no 'ad hocism' or 'tokenism' would keep the momentum going for long. What is called for is a massive effort, both at the governmental as well as voluntary organisational levels, without fuss or fury of any kind.

The establishment of 'Navodaya Vidyalayas (School)'—one such school in each district across the country, entirely funded by the Central government, was another serious step in the right direction for such children of rural background as were/are brilliant and sharp and who are to be admitted to such a school through open competition—though seemingly elitist in character to some extent, are a boon for those rural children who, for want of proper guidance and financial support, are made to rot and rust in the not very congenial and competitive atmosphere in most village schools. Hardly had these schools crossed the teething troubles of establishment when voices began to be raised against their continuation on the puerile plea that these schools would foster the bane of 'public school mentality' at public expense and thus segregate the students from the mainstream of their social and cul-

tural milieu. But the review committee of 'New Education Policy' under the chairmanship of Acharya Ramamurti recommended not only the restructuring of existing 261 Navodaya Schools, but also the vocationalisation of elementary education, the doing away with the annual system of examinations, complete autonomy to schools and the allocation of additional financial and intellectual resources to compensate for past neglect of those in SC, ST and OBC categories.

Many of the proposals of the committee, though laudable, are not easy to implement for obvious reasons. The concept of doing away with annual examinations is likely to encounter resistance from parents and students who have over the years come to consider success in examinations as synonymous with merit and naturally a passport to a good job. Moreover, no other mechanism or system, both viable and credible to judge a student's level of performance has been tried and found workable for such a massive numbers as we have them in school/colleges all over the country. For the implementation of other recommendations, the government has to find Rs 2600 crore to provide vocational education to 25 per cent of students. If each of the 500 districts in the country is to have one Navodaya School, it will cost another 500 crore.

As things stand today, education continues to be on a relatively low priority of both the Central as well as State governments and each has its own constraints and compulsions as far as the allocation of funds for education are concerned. As a result the talk of fundamental right to education for all ends up as another high-sounding slogan as nothing concrete is done to recognise the ground realities and remove the factors responsible for mass illiteracy, population explosion and other evils plaguing the Indian society. The investment on education today is not even 3 per

cent of the GNP whereas the Kothari Commission had recommended 6 per cent many years ago.

Under the new dispensation, the HRD (Human Resource Development Ministry) is committed that education can no longer be confined to the classrooms nor can it be in the classical mould. Hence the criticism that two parallel systems of primary and elementary education existing in the country—the formal stream and the informal stream—could not produce the desired results, has been found valid. In view of the daily conflict between the economic interest of the family and the individual interest of the child, informal education has to be given to the child at a time convenient to him/her. In this respect the scope of informal/non-formal education as envisaged in 1986 under NPE (National Policy on Education) has been enlarged. Serious discussions are on among top educationists and senior citizens of the country to suspend teaching and all other activity in colleges and universities for a year so that there can be 'mass action for national regeneration'. A year spent in a very educative activity would also mean interacting with the 'soul and salt' of India.

Delinking degrees from jobs is not a new idea. It was first mooted by the NPE (1986) and debated vigorously in seminars all over the country but nothing definite has come out of the exercise. Perhaps this is the fate of most such proposals. They are discussed threadbare, a lot of heat is generated and then they hibernate into oblivion. "Continued high levels of investment in higher education is contradictory to the results of studies on return from investment which have brought out that lower levels of education have a higher average rate of return—investment in lower levels of education contributes more to income distribution and reduction of poverty besides economic growth." (Ramamurti Report)

Another Committee headed by Mr N. Janardhan Reddy, has gone into the implementation of the NPE

(1986) and identified several priority areas during the Eighth Plan for attaining the goal of universalisation of elementary education. Among other things, it has emphasised universal enrolment, recommended setting up of primary schools within one kilometre of walking distance for all children and suggested that facilities of non-formal education be provided for school drop-outs, working children and girls, who cannot attend school. Operation Blackboard should be extended to upper primary level as well and local-level committees which include women and teachers.

Before other reforms are talked about educational planning is required to put the objectives of education straight and the interlinkages between the sub-sectors of education into a well-defined perspective. This could be accomplished by clearly segregating the tasks of mass education for meaningfully universalising elementary education and choosing the optimum rates of growth at higher levels of education for meaningful manpower planning. The first must be based on a basic minimum rights approach and the second could be specifically for the purpose of human capital formation and hence subject to econometric optimisation. "Education in its broader sense begins only after formal school education is finished. The truth is found when men are free to pursue it".—Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"The normal Indian child is burnt out by very conscious and deliberate processes, which could have been avoided by the time he reaches grade three. By then he has been socialised into an education culture which does not like innovativeness and individuality, a system which has no room for enquiry. The system really kills children, that is, if you consider imagination, curiosity and a desire to manipulate reality and interact with the world's basic characteristics of learning." — Dr Krishan Kumar, an expert on education.

Political Popularity

"No man will ever bring out of the Presidency the reputation which carries him into it. Politics is such a torment that I would advise every one I love not to mix with it."

—Thomas Jefferson

POLITICAL popularity, as it is understood in the present-day content, is as brittle as glass and as untenable as a house of cards. On the sweep of popular support, earned or acquired, one may reach the top of personal glory and find the political scenario around highly stimulating and sensational. But a single *faux pas* or quirk of circumstance may change the political climate to such an extent that the 'saviour' of yesterday may become a *persona non grata* of today. Such is the character and composition of people's faith and confidence that nobody should take them for a ride nor should they be taken for granted.

In a democracy, whether parliamentary or presidential, the fortunes of political figures and their parties keep fluctuating like mercury in a barometer. If people are prone to bestowing their fulsome praise on the leader for his charismatic personality (President J.F. Kennedy) or for his/her sterling performance in war (Mrs Indira Gandhi after Bangladesh war 1971 and President Bush after the Gulf war 1991) or for some revolutionary economic measure, the same people may pull the rug from under the popular leader's feet and dump him/her into the waste-paper basket of obscurity and oblivion, to come out of which may prove an uphill task.

"Buy popularity now, pay later". This is a rule followed by politicians of all hues. By dangling the carrot of promises and pledges before a gullible audience and credulous public, the politicians show a rosy path to the people at large. "With no holds barred" and 'all is fair in love and

politics', the practitioners of political strings and shifting loyalties make use of every conceivable weapon in their armoury to achieve the top slot in the political hierarchy. In their hearts of hearts they know that such political popularity, as attained by gimmicks or populism, is both fickle and fake. For their acts of commission and omission, people have to pay through their nose and the country has to face a host of problems like the run-away inflation, soaring prices depleting foreign reserves, social unrest *et al.*

Nearer home, on the political graph, the popularity curves of 'leading lights' of various political parties rose to dizzying heights, when on the crest of 'waves' they achieved unprecedented electoral gains, especially in 1972 (after Bangladesh war), in 1977 (after Emergency) and in 1984 (after Indira Gandhi's assassination). But strange are the ways of political permutations and combinations that success tends to blind the successful whereas failure turns them cynical.

Stable political popularity of a leader or a party does not come by chance, nor does it fall from heaven. It has to be conceived, cultivated and collated with the aspirations of the people like the adoption of "Socialistic Pattern of Society" policy resolution at Avadi under the inspiring leadership of Pt Nehru. Shastri's popularity was due to his simplicity, humility and down-to-earth approach to the problems of poverty, social inequalities and economic disparities among Indian masses. Above all, his identification with the common people of India and his slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' endeared him to one and all. His determination and stewardship during the 1965 Indo-Pak war further raised his stature and added a few more feathers to his already growing popularity among the

people at home and abroad.

In the sub-continent where heritage plays a pivotal role in almost all walks of life, dynastic politics cannot remain an exclusive outcaste from the obsessive passion of transferring the political mantle from father or mother to son or daughter. Quite often it is a legacy made to pass from one generation to another or it may be acquired by pursuing a public cause or by the rare gift of gab or by playing to the gallery. Whatever be source of political popularity more often than not it tends to turn many a head or makes monster of a man, who with its possessive nature of pursuit becomes a victim of sycophancy and without it an outright cynic or an irresponsible critic.

Excessive use of gimmicks such as "the distribution of loans in 'Loan Melas', by one government and 'waiving of loans' by another government" (to quote just two examples) can land any country into an economic mess. Escalating budgetary deficits on account of wasteful non-plan expenditure over the years, sick public sector units surviving on subsidies, *et al* may be good for building up the bridges and citadels of political popularity, but they cannot provide a self-sustaining infra-structure to a developing economy. And now when the debris of ill-conceived and recklessly pursued economic policies during the eighties are staring us in the face, some politicians are still finding it difficult to face the realities and rid themselves of the myopic political games falling under the theme 'buy cheap popularity now, pay later or make others pay through the nose'.

It goes without saying that in a democracy the edifice of political popularity can become an asset only if it is not entirely built up on the premises of populist policies and postures, dubious devices and devious designs.

MODEL PARAGRAPHS

"Only a life saved for others is a life worthwhile."

Albert Einstein

Living for self promotion makes us ordinary but living for other human beings and it need be, even dying for a selfless cause and concern, confers on us the halo of being extra-ordinary. In respect of caste, creed and colour, if we are motivated by the ideals of serving and alleviating the sufferings of others, only then can we feel a sense of contentment and consummation. Even the animals, if properly tamed and trained, prove better friends and companions than most of us, who tend to show the backs and flee the battle-field when dangers confront and the enemies try to overwhelm us. What makes us worthy human beings is not the amount of assets and accretions that we keep accumulating during our short span of life but the service, however small and humble, that we render to others. Selfless men of knowledge and wisdom, whether they chartered their courses on the rough and hazy seas of spiritual mysteries or moral enigmas or they broke the barriers of ignorance, illiteracy, disease and hunger, they treated life as a challenge to surmount and subdue the hidden foes so that tomorrow was a bit better than their present.

"The great end of life is not knowledge but action."

J H Huxley

Life is not mere contemplation, it is action here and now. What we conceive in moments of silence and solitude may be relevant for a while but what we extract out from the mysteries of nature, matters in the long run. 'Knowledge without action' is like a flower without fragrance. What lends charm to life is not meditation but action in the

living present. Knowledge gained through inter action with mighty minds may give us intellectual satisfaction but knowledge put to use for the betterment of human condition will offer us both intellectual stimulant as well as physical prowess. An action taken in haste may end in confusion and consternation. Similarly knowledge gathered, catalogued, documented and ultimately put in safe vaults may only feed the greed of moths and similar other species. The axioms 'strike while the iron is hot' and 'make hay while the sun shines' bring out the vitality and virtue of action. The temple of civilization and the aura of human culture are a standing tribute to the dignity and deity of action. The whole philosophy of 'Gita', the great Indian epic, revolves round the pivot of action without whose driving force and creative cult life's journey would have got stuck up in the mud and mire of misery.

"The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

Thomas Gray

I go and pride feed human mind with abject ambitions, the realisation of which not only upsets the apple cart of social harmony but also unsettles many an established institution. Human history bears testimony to the tearsome fact that those who craved for the glory of world-conquest with gun and fire, only licked the dust and found their yearning futile and fatal. The irony of their life was that under the glare of temporary victories and an accretion to their expanding empire, they forgot that they were, in fact, approaching their graves faster than anticipated. In their obsession for grandeur, higher than the sky and passion for attaining immortality while they are alive, some human beings indulge in all sorts of tricks and twists and in the process push mankind towards the abyss of annihilation or near decimation. To

live with dignity and divinity is everyman's right but to smother the honour and humanity of others, is no man's prerogative, however mighty or majestic he may claim to be. The glory attained through blood-shed may be thrilling for the ruler, but who knows for how long such a glory would last.

"Life without faith is an arid business."

Noel Coward

A landscape without water is a desert, whereas a life without faith is an arid business bereft of peace within and tranquillity outside. When the shadows of tear and failure begin to threaten us, it is not reason that consoles or comforts us. It is our faith in the invisible that sustains us through the quagmire of doubts and drubbings. Not intellect alone, but trust in God leads us from darkness to light, from untruth to truth, and from exasperation (irritation) to equanimity (calmness). Where human ingenuity fails, faith shows the way out. With power and possession we may feel, for a moment to be at the top of the world, but soon when reality dawns, we feel the chill of the earth and the absurdity of our acquisitions. The lure and lustre of materialistic magic is transitory but the exuberance that faith brings to our dull and div existence is lasting. When all is lost, we can still look forward to retrieving it with faith in God above. It is through faith that the nectar of bliss flows and peace is restored to human life that has been battered and bruised by constantly running after worldly illusions and images. Having attained the summit of aspirations, man still finds himself poor in more than one way. This poverty of soul can be enriched only by re-awakening in ourselves the torch of faith that has been allowed to blow out by the storm of mundane possessions and glittering gold.

Democracy Alone not Enough?

Democracy is generally regarded as a great boon and India is the world's largest democracy. This form of government has now struck roots in the country. It has, however, several flaws which, in many ways, ruins the concept and the image. Besides it often proves inadequate to meet various situations. The proposition for discussion is: "Democracy alone is not enough if India has to survive as a nation"

Mr A Sir, almost everyone in the enlightened countries of the world favours democracy—rule of the people, by the people and for the people. It implies a certain standard of understanding, education and tolerance. It is not only a form of government but is also a form of State and society. It has several implications, notably social equality, absence of privilege and of discrimination on any ground. In theory, India is supposed to be a republic—a system of government in which the elected representative of the people are supreme, with a non-hereditary head (the President) and usually a non-hereditary privileged class or classes. The well-worded Preamble of the Indian Constitution itself says: "We, the people of India, having resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign, Socialist Secular Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens: justice, social, economic and political, liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all, fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation..." This Preamble specifically mentions all the features of a democracy. Chapter III further enumerates the Fundamental Rights without which no democratic country can survive. But

the tragedy is that although these rights and privileges exist on paper, in actual practice it has been found that these rights are not available to the common man. It has also been found that as the days pass, the republican ideals matter less and less in our public life. Actual and full-scale implementation is generally missing. Mere enumeration of the basic human rights in the Constitution is not enough. Of what use are high-sounding paper declarations if the actuality is different from what is supposed to be. In fact, there is a vast difference between the two. There is injustice, inequality, discrimination and even denial of justice. The poor people, especially the members of the Scheduled Castes and other backward classes. The common flaunting of democratic ideals does not, in fact cannot, feed hungry stomachs, nor can they ensure availability of the basic rights enshrined in the Constitution. Faithful implementation of the principles outlined in basic laws of the land is required, and also sincerity, honesty, full realisation of the importance of justice in all arenas of life. Without these, democracy can never be complete. We can have unity in spite of the amazing diversities in various spheres of activity. At present unity and trust are lacking. The missing traits indicate that India is not a full-fledged democracy but a strange mixture of contradictory trends. Creed, conspiracies and communalism seems to dominate the scene. In fact, this country is not a genuine democracy but a fake one; the form is there but the spirit and solid content are lacking.

Mr B Sir, it seems to me that my predecessor has projected only the darker side of democracy as it exists in India and has deliberately overlooked the brighter side. Ours is a vast country of continental

dimensions. There are bound to be cases of injustice, inequality, discrimination and maldistribution of the necessities of life. Because of the dark spots here and there, we must not condemn the whole system. No theory or system of government is perfect. As the years pass, the shortcomings of a democratic order of society come to light, and this is true of India too. But efforts are being made to eliminate the flaws in the institutional framework and in the actual system as it works. It is obvious that there are inequalities between different men—physical inequalities which make some men stronger than others. There are mental and material discrepancies too. There cannot be justice, equality, equal and fair distribution of goods and commodities in such dismal circumstances. In capitalist countries and those where authoritarianism dominate, a few people hold all the power which they use to their advantage. In India the basic infrastructure is essentially democratic; there is no tendency to establish an autocracy or dictatorship. The path of democracy is generally straight, though there are pitfalls. Indian democracy cannot be perfect because there is still a vast percentage of illiterate people, while in the USA and England there is almost cent per cent literacy and hence there is very little exploitation. India has held several general elections in which the masses have voted without fear or intimidation. The legislatures comprise duly elected people and not nominees of the ruling party. The various governments are constituted democratically, not in an authoritarian manner. As in other democracies, in this country too things are built on a firm democratic foundation, though ours is a young democracy and it will take some more time for the

foundations to become stronger. I do not deny that Indian democracy has serious shortcomings but it is wrong to contend that India is not a democracy or that undemocratic trends predominate. The end of democracy is good life for the individual. Under this system, solutions of problems are found through discussion; there are no impositions from above (the President or the Prime Minister). There are no signs of dictatorship in this country. Persons who are able and competent come to the top. Consensus on various issues is always the aim.

Mr C My predecessor, Mr B, has stressed the importance of certain aspects of democracy but has not been able to weaken the proposition that in this supposedly democratic land there are dark shadows everywhere. There is the caste system which implies inequality; gross inefficiency and blatant corruption are noticed all round. There are very few signs of honesty and fair play. Communal tendencies are found everywhere. For a good democracy we need contentment and tolerance, but these two important qualities are missing in our society. There are frequent communal riots and communal bickerings; these smack of intolerance while we urgently need tolerance and justice in all communities. Generally, democracy means popular government, with the majority party forming the government. But in this country, minority governments, with the majority of the legislators in the opposition, often remain in office. Surely, this is not a genuine democratic order. Jawaharlal Nehru was a true democrat; he was independent and a real, true republican. Although born in an affluent family, he was not proud or haughty. He remained a stranger to upper class arrogance. He was always free from parochialism. Affluence did not shape his thoughts. As a commentator observed, Nehru projected the elevated image of an Indian. But

how many people in this country can rightfully claim to be following in the footsteps of Nehru? He was firmly against exploitation of one class by another, but what do we find in the country today? There is exploitation everywhere, there is recklessness and there is cruelty. Again, in a really democratic country there are no fissiparous tendencies worth the name and there is near-complete political unity. In India however there are several separatist movements; some of these, like the Akalis' demand for Khalistan, have far-reaching implications. There is much popular support for narrow religious symbols, myths and legends. All these movements tend to create discord among the people and cause considerable embarrassment all round, creating problems for the Government. Perhaps in no other large democracy are the army and the police required to handle such frequent and often serious problems of law and order as in India. Oddly enough, the terrorists, who indulge in massacres now and then, are equipped with the most sophisticated weapons, thanks to the active help and backing by Pakistan. There is widespread graft. Another tragedy is that the elections held in India have many blemishes. Elections are an essential part of democracy and if this basic ingredient is tainted, how can we expect the superstructure, the supreme Parliament, to function as a truly democratic institution? Muscle and money power seem to have become integral parts of the electoral process. India can never become a truly democratic country unless the process of elections is purified. We need dependable people of sound character who would cooperate with one another in ensuring the smooth functioning of democratic institutions. At present we don't have them.

Mr D Sir, I strongly support the views expressed by Mr B who convincingly presented the case of India's democracy. Mr A and Mr C have, on the other hand, pointed

out several flaws which mar the political set-up. But apparently Mr A and Mr C seem to ignore the fact that there are corrupt practices even in the world's supreme political and military power—the U.S.A. Collection of party funds in the USA has assumed scandalous proportions though, like the 100-dollar dinners, other practices are accepted there as a normal feature. No one can deny that in democratic India everyone has an equal opportunity of development. We must not overemphasise the case of the tribals and other backward sections of society who can, but do not take full advantage of the democratic set-up. In this country the people's basic rights are upheld by the Supreme Court—the guardian of the Constitution. In every regime there are leaders and there are followers; this is true of Indian democracy too. The leaders act on behalf of the people. Where they let the people down, they are overthrown in a peaceful manner—at the polls. It is futile to expect perfection in any system. In an undemocratic society leaders force themselves on the people; this is not so in India which is a democracy. Superior might and influence play a dominant role in totalitarian regimes; in India even those who have limited means get an opportunity of rising in life. It is the will of the people that counts; this is evident in every general election. The powerful and the mighty have fallen because of the lack of support of the people. As the electorate gets educated and develops the power of discrimination, the flaws of democracy get gradually corrected. Moreover, as time passes, the power of the demagogue, the political boss, the windbag and the lawyer-politicians continually decreases. Those who lay stress on complete unity forget that a healthy opposition is essential for sound working of democracy for which a vigilant opposition is necessary. For these reasons, I believe that a developing democracy suffices for India to survive as a nation. It has laid the basis for an effective set-up. Time is a great healer; it will heal the wounds and fill the gaps.

Do Things Your Own Way

Stand on your own feet

THE importance of doing things your own way can hardly be overstressed. This is what makes for full flowering of personality, self-fulfilment and high achievement. Refusing to follow the crowd, to follow your own bent of mind, to be nobody-but yourself, is what pays the ultimate dividends.

Some people just drift. They go with the tide, follow the line of least resistance, just think and do as others think and do and thus deny their individuality and personality. Self-denial amounts to self-betrayal.

To be self-reliant, self-fulfilling and achieving personality you must master the techniques of standing on your feet.

Think for yourself

“Thinking”, says Henry Ford, “is the hardest task any one can do, which is probably the reason why we have so few thinkers.” How many of us think for ourselves? Says, Gordon Byron, “A lot of people think they think but they don’t. Often they jump from an observation to a conclusion without any reasoning whatsoever. It is merely a mental impulse. Orderly thinking is comparatively rare.”

It takes courage to be a non-conformist and think differently from your group, and the crowd you are with. And yet that is what you owe to yourself—your self-esteem, your uniqueness in the world, the fact that there is only one you.

You must remember famous rules of Descart’s art of thinking:

(1) accept a thing as true only when you clearly recognize it as such; and

(2) be careful to avoid haste and prejudice.

Test your ideas with facts. Give up every preconceived notion and follow your intellect to whatever con-

clusions it may lead. Avoid sweeping statements like “Everybody says”, “How can you possibly know?” It will be fair to say ‘many’ but not everybody. In any case truth is not always what the majority think. Often the exact opposite of what is generally believed is the truth. Thinking for yourself can be only purposeful if it is given scientific orientation. Science is rigidly accurate in observation and ruthless to fallacy in logic.

Scientific orientation is contrasted with anti-scientific orientations which are the nemesis of correct and logical thinking. These are:

(i) The orientation of dependency, in which statements are accepted not because they are verifiable or logically consistent, but because they originate from a parent or parent-surrogate which may take the form of a person, a professor, a philosophical system or a sacred book. The general motto of this orientation may be: “Daddy says so”.

(ii) *Word mindedness*: This orientation involves the tendency to word-mindedness as distinguished from fact mindedness. Examples are: “If a statement sounds true, it must be true”; “If it is eloquently stated, it must be true”; “If the speaker has a beautiful voice, it must be true”; and “If a statement logically follows from self-evident truths, it must be true.”

(iii) According to this orientation whatever we want passionately enough to be so is so. We believe what we want to believe—however absurd and improbable. This kind of orientation is encouraged by mass media especially “the dream factories” of advertising and movies.

(iv) *‘Yes-but’ orientation*: This is the orientation of people who are willing to make verifiable statement, except when they arrive at subjects involving their special moral, cultural, or class prejudice at which

point they dig their heels into the ground and cry, “Yes, but...”. The ‘yes-butter’ is not willing to apply the scientific orientation to some area in his thinking. He makes the motto of Emerson’s statement: “There are two laws discrete... Law for man, and Law for thing”, and justifies throwing out the scientific orientation in the discussions of human problems.

Be Autonomous

GIVE full expression and scope to your personality. Do things your own way. Act on your own initiative. Initiative has been defined as “a social kind of action. It is doing something worthwhile without being told to do so”. It has been said that the supreme success quality of a man is initiative, perhaps it is. At any rate no man ever yet made a big success unless he had it. Many people have far more knowledge and ability than they use. Their brains appear to have no self-starter. And there are no handles on them whereby they can be moved to action. The mass of the people do only what they are told to do. Without instructions, they stand idle. They seldom start anything. They shrink from doing anything on their own. They play safe preferring to accept orders in a subordinate position to responsibility as executives. We see them everywhere—people of outstanding ability who have no push and never succeed in life. Every person who ever started anything had to face difficulties and doubts. Very often we have to start something which we don’t know how to finish, but we learn as we go along. To start anything new always requires some courage and to persevere requires a bit of stamina.

Don’t listen to people who say, “This is how things are, and you can’t change them. It has always been that way.” Don’t be afraid of striking out on the new and untried road—your way. Be your ‘own man’. Get rid of

your idols. Be your own hero.

Have courage of your convictions

COURAGE is not absence of despair, it is rather the capacity to move ahead in spite of despair. It means willingness to confront fear, flying in the face of criticism, relying on yourself; believing enough in yourself and in living your own life as you choose.

William Manchester in his recent biography of Douglas MacArthur, "American Caesar", (1979) pinpoints one outstanding trait of MacArthur, who has been compared to Alexander the Great. "What Douglas MacArthur believed in most was Douglas MacArthur." The most shining example of the courage of one's convictions was Martin Luther who said in his famous speech at the Diet of Worms (1521), "Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise."

It was Magellan who said, "the Church says the earth is flat; but I have seen its shadow on the moon, and I have more confidence even in a shadow than in the Church."

You may remember Galileo's reply to the Inquisition, "Nevertheless it (earth) does move."

It is a blessed thing indeed if you have individuality enough and courage to stand by your own convictions, and have the grandeur to say your say

But you must make sure that your convictions are in fact true and not false. According to Dr Theodor Rick, Freud told his circle of students in Vienna that "only those convictions are lasting and valuable which one acquires after overcoming objections" and added, "Convictions and women one can get easily are not highly appreciated."

The English physicist, John Tyndall in his "Fragments of Science for Unscientific people", wrote, "The brightest flashes in the world of thought are incomplete until they have been proved to have their counterparts in the world of facts."

Your convictions, in short, must be dynamic—founded on reason and fact.

Self-belief

BELIEVE in yourself. Have a passionate faith and enthusiasm in what you are doing. As the leading Polish spiritual writer M. Malinski puts it, "You have enough strength to do what you have to do. Don't be afraid of the people who are in your way or maliciously put obstacles in front of you. Don't be afraid if the world is difficult." Everything depends upon you, on your trust in yourself.

At the same time don't worry overly about the result of your endeavour to reach your goals. We tend to be so obsessed about the result of our effort that we fail to enjoy the effort itself. We become so concerned that our effort should result in future success that we often fail to watch, regulate and take pleasure in the present moment. Aldous Huxley warns us against the exclusive worship of success. "The bitch-goddess success—in William James's phrase—demands strange sacrifices from those who worship it." Don't undervalue the importance of the effort itself. "I have", says B.T. Washington, "learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."

This is not to suggest that there should be no persistent effort to 'succeed' in our endeavour. It is not to be taken as an invitation to apathy or idleness—far from it. The suggestion is to do whatever task presents itself to the best of our capabilities with all possible care and concentration and with all possible enjoyment. How well a task is done can be so hampered by worrying about the result and being prejudiced as to what the result would be. Let the result take care of itself, because we can never guarantee it; we do not have the power to manipulate all the factors which account the result successful.

Man is a deciding animal. He can decide to eliminate worry if he learns to take life as an adventure, as a game, as a risky but enjoyable sport. "Life", says Hebbel, "is not anything; it is only the opportunity for doing

something."

Shape your destiny yourself

WE should not lose sight of the fact that our destinies are individual things and that it is up to us personally to take charge and shape them according to our capacities, needs, ambitions and ideals. They cannot be handed over to an assembly-line and come out tailor-made to fit us. They must be designed and hammered out by each one of us individually. To permit forces outside of us to shape them for us is to abdicate our birthright as individual human personalities.

"Let George do it", is the philosophy of those who shirk personal responsibility. Cervantes in his classic Don Quixote poses the question: "Have you the mind to do what nobody can do for you?" If your answer is yes, you will not hesitate to take the helm and pilot your own craft.

Assuming responsibility for oneself pays dividends. It enables an individual to develop his potential fully. It fosters individuality and develops individual creativity. It adds to one's motivation to perform better.

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VOLUME XXXIII, No. 11
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EDITOR

O.P. KHANNA

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Dear Reader,

Recently, we took note of the report to the effect that young men and women possessing MBA and other professional degrees have a high value in the job market and can hope to get attractive emolument. Early in May we came across a tell-tale analysis of the latest position regarding the recruitment of young people to the IAS. It is learnt that the Central Government has decided to reduce the number of recruits for this service from the usual level of 110 to 80 for this year and next year. This decision need not dishearten ambitious youth for many of whom the IAS is the first choice because of the prestige it commands and the facilities it assures.

The figure of vacancies notified in the gazette is unlikely to be much below the normal, especially because the actual recruitment is generally higher than the number envisaged. Moreover, the number of candidates to be cleared for the main examination on the basis of the preliminary examination is almost normal. Official sources contend that the cut in the recruitment is within reasonable limits.

Another encouraging aspect is that the cutbacks are often restored to meet the frequent contingencies. The need for good administrators is ever increasing; and so are career opportunities for talented persons in various fields.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

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ROLE OF MONEY POWER

Your Special Feature-I, 'Curbing Money Power in Polls', (May '92 issue) describes candidly one of the most sensitive issues of our time. Besides many other blemishes on our electoral system, there is the close nexus between money power and elections. In fact, money power and elections have been functioning cheek by jowl right from the first Lok Sabha election held in 1952. The evil increases from election to election. This raises some obvious questions. Will free and fair elections remain a mirage for ever? What sort of democracy is this, where the very norms are clean forgotten?

To solve this disconcerting problem, the Election Commission has been making recommendations from time to time. The latest proposals were made by the Commission in March this year.

Mere recommendations and ridicule will take us nowhere. The vigilant citizens should put our best foot forward to meet the situation.

Durgapur Jyotiranjana Biswal

The Special Feature-I (May '92) "Curbing Money Power in Polls" deserves notice. The political parties spend enormous amounts during election campaigns. The financial resources of the parties are not known to the public, and it is mostly unaccounted money (the general public calls it 'black money'). The multi-party democratic system provokes each party to prove itself superior in all respects to others. The parties follow unscrupulous methods to grab power.

Therefore, all possible steps should be taken to curb money and muscle powers. The illiterate people of rural areas are the main victims of the political manoeuvring during elections.

New Delhi (Cpl) Pravir Kumar

Electoral malpractice in India have assumed an alarming proportion. Adopting nefarious means to win a seat has become common. It brings much discredit to the whole body politic. Political leaders start wooing rich, unscrupulous men and manage to get funds from them, thus virtually mortgaging their freedom of action. So money power dominates the electoral system. The legislatures thus constituted cannot be described as fully representative of all shades of opinion and all sections of people. A tainted electoral system and the resultant lopsided set-up are deplorable distortions of democracy.

Houghly Sanjay Chanda

RETRENCHMENT

In view of the economic reforms an-

nounced by the Government recently, your write-up "Retrenchment by Another Name" (April '92) was very timely.

India has been facing economic disaster. So every effort to cut out wasteful expenditure deserves appreciation. Economic liberalisation and an open-door policy are crying needs of the hour but at what cost? There are about 50 million youths ready for making contributions to the progress of the country, but the sword of retrenchment is reducing the job opportunities.

It must be remembered that unemployment has played a big role in promoting secessionist activities in Punjab and Kashmir. Therefore, the Government must take appropriate step to solve the unemployment problem at the earliest. Employment is one of the basic needs of an individual.

Janaulpur Binay Kumar Mishra

According to the Finance Minister, retrenchment is necessary for solving the financial problem. I think some other steps should be taken to begin with. First, the Government should remove "fat" at the ministerial level. Secondly, it should avoid misuse of money by ministers. Retrenchment should be adopted only as a last resort since it causes ruin of a family whereas pruning of facilities at the ministerial level would mean only a reduction in lavishness.

Barduan Sushovan Hati

INDIA-PAK TENSIONS

Appropos your cover feature "India-Pak Tensions" (April '92), Pakistan has been trying to provoke one more military conflict by supporting terrorism and subversion in J & K. The Pakistanis have not learnt any lesson from two consecutive wars. They are demanding a plebiscite without fulfilling the pre-conditions laid down by the U.N. resolutions.

Pakistan is not showing willingness to solve the Kashmir Valley issue bilaterally. We should not budge from our firm stand. Both countries are well aware of the devastating consequences of a war. They must avoid it.

New Barrackpore Gopal Ch Biswas

Indo-Pak relations should be speedily normalised for the good of both countries and the region. Given the background and the continuing acrimony, this is a very difficult task. But no avenue should be left unexplored. The sooner an environment of peace and amity is created by stopping the arming and training of the militants, the better. It is only then that a meaningful dialogue can be held under the Shimla Agreement.

There are non-competing zones where consumers, traders and manufacturers stand to gain. In fact, increased trade would benefit both the countries, and it is the lack of political will that is preventing it. Several measures have

been recommended by SAARC—giving each other MFN (Most Favoured Nation) status, gradually removing non-tariff barriers, creating a special trading area and formation of a payments union—which could be implemented.

In a world changing beyond expectations it is in the best interests of the two States to rise above political compulsions and ensure bonhomie.

Bhubaneswar Durga Madhab Dash

The Special Feature "US Threats to India" in the May '92 issue of CM was timely and highly thought-provoking. The US cannot act against India militarily because India is not Iraq. New Delhi must not bow to American pressures.

India needs to be very careful in its foreign policy. To submit to the US would mean total surrender in economic as well as political fields.

Bhawan Manphool S. Jongra

I have read with interest your Special Feature-I 'Commission for Women—Vital Talks Ahead' in the April 92 issue. I have some suggestions to make:

There should be only one Indian Marriage Act, not different marriage acts for various communities. Centres for sex determination should be banned in order to check female infanticide. For those guilty of bride burning the legal process and the trial should not be lengthy. Vocational training centres are there, but adequate arrangements do not exist for accommodating the trainees and providing them employment. Moreover, due attention should be paid to moral and social development.

Dellu Archana Rani

REGIONAL DISPARITY

Since the dawn of Indian independence, regional disparities have been a serious malady. These disparities not only make a poor State poorer but also widen the gap between the better-off and the worse-off groups. Even a state richly endowed with natural resources may become poor. A notable example is Orissa which has huge deposits of coal, iron ore and other minerals. But plants to exploit these resources have not been set up in adequate number.

How can a nation prosper when a major share of the natural resources remains unutilised? Balanced regional development alone can boost India's economy to fight poverty and destitution. A neglected part of the body hampers the growth process of the whole.

Puri Akhaya Kumar Hota

Your decision not to increase the C.M. price is highly commendable. The inclusion of advertisements may appear odd but in fact it is a bonanza to the readers; the ads also give information about career building books and publications. Thus the C.M. provides valuable guidance for which the readers are grateful.

Pilblhit S.C. Gangwar

Fragile Peace in Kabul

AFTER nearly 14 years of an all-out war in Afghanistan against foreigners who had seized the country and attempted to impose a new system, the infuriated guerrillas have won. But the irony is that the victory has not brought lasting peace to the war-ravaged and strife-riven country. The outsiders are no longer operating and cannot be held responsible for the tragedy that has afflicted Kabul. It is the rebels, torn by factionalism and bitter rivalries as they have always been, who are to blame for the dismal situation that is often marked by feuds and armed clashes in the outskirts of the Afghan capital.

All these years there was a prolonged struggle between the Super Powers—the former Soviet Union and the USA—which were indirectly, through proxies and others who were no better than mercenaries, seeking control over the poverty-stricken, strategically situated country. Three years ago, both the Soviet Union and the Americans opted out of the turmoil and, following the Geneva accords, stopped supplying weapons to both parties. The doubting Thomases who warned that the ferocious guerrillas would start fighting each other for supremacy when there is a vacuum have been proved right.

Another touch of irony has been imparted to the situation by the fact that the rival groups of the Mujahideen are well equipped with arms which were supplied to them earlier by the Super Powers. They have guns, rockets, tanks and even aircraft. In that sense, a part of the responsibility for the destruction lies on the suppliers of arms.

With rocket barrages and other missiles over the sky in large numbers, people getting killed day after day, houses being continually damaged and normal life being disrupted every hour, what hope can there be for peace in the land of the Afghans? On May 5, Special UN envoy Benon Sevan, who had returned to Afghanistan for talks on repatriation of about five million Afghan refugees rightly deplored the renewed fighting and commented with much regret: "These stupid killings, shooting rockets back and forth blindly.... what results do they expect?" He did his very best to resolve the Afghan crisis; he is a disillusioned man today. His efforts have

mostly gone in vain; his peace plan has proved to be a non-starter.

In the first week of May, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezbi forces of the Mujahideen, renewed his offensive against the Interim Council of Afghanistan. The interim Government's forces inflicted considerable attrition on the attackers. The latest phase of the fighting between the rebel groups could appropriately be described as a personal feud. Hekmatyar had warned that he would launch another attack on Kabul unless the new Government dissociated itself from the forces of Uzbek Jauz militia of Gen Rashid Dostam, his rival, and also withdrew them from the capital. A conclusion can be easily drawn: if Hekmatyar's bitter rival had not been associated with the provisional President Mojadidi's regime, much of the bloodshed around Kabul could have been avoided. Clearly, personal animosities dominate the scene and have cost the country dearly. The cease-fire agreement signed on May 6 came as a great relief.

All the parties and groups on the scene agree that Afghanistan must have a truly Islamic regime and all laws and practices in the country must conform to Islam. But the renewed fighting in the southern areas of Kabul between the Jamiat-i-Islami forces, the Uzbeki militia (about 20,000 strong) and remnants of the army on one side, and the Pashtun fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami faction on the other, indicated that the cease-fire was highly fragile.

Another notable fact is that the present regime itself is provisional. Prof Mojadidi is supposed to make way for a new President in less than two months. Which group and which leader will finally take over in Kabul cannot be said with certainty in view of the endless rivalries and tensions. The probability is that the final picture will emerge only after the elections envisaged at the end of the interim arrangement. According to a well-informed source, mutual suspicions among the Mujahideen and the militia commanders have intensified the differences and complicated the situation. As long as the hotheads and the ferocious rebels hold the reins, sporadic clashes will continue. Peace hangs by a thread.

Afghanistan Crisis; Historic Turn

Dramatic developments have taken place in Afghanistan during the past few weeks. The events have totally transformed the scene in Kabul. Dr Najibullah is out of the show, the rebels (Mujahideen) are in power. The new leader of the country is Prof Sibghatullah Mojadidi, who has formed an interim Council to govern the strife torn and war ravaged country.

FOR about 14 years hapless Afghanistan was a highly disturbed country—the people saw little peace and no signs of an early return to normalcy. Now, at long last, the conflict between the rival factions of the rebels—the Mujahideen, appears to be fading away. All foreign forces had already left the country. April 28, 1992 was a historic day—there was a peaceful transition of power from the Communists to the joint interim Mujahideen Council headed by Prof Sibghatullah Mojadidi, who is a widely respected figure. He had kept himself out of Kabul throughout the civil war and other conflicts that cost the country heavily in loss of life and property.

The new leader of Afghanistan declared the country an Islamic republic and called on the hardliner guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Islami forces fighting a losing battle with the alliance forces of other Mujahideen groups, to refrain from violence, lay down arms or face action under the Shariat law.

The transfer of power took place at a simple ceremony in the Foreign Ministry hall in the presence of the erstwhile Watan Party leaders (for long headed by Dr Najibullah) and representatives or Ambassadors of China, Pakistan, Iran, India, Turkey and UN officials. The transfer by members of the outgoing government marked the final fall of the Communist backed regime that took over power by force some 14 years

ago, sparking the Mujahideen revolt that ended with the taking of embattled Kabul. The new leader announced a general amnesty which, he said, would not be extended to deposed President Dr Najibullah. The latter's fate appears uncertain. His attempt to flee the country did not succeed.

Even as the transfer of power was taking place, fighting continued between guerrilla factions, with Mr Hekmatyar refusing to reconcile himself to the changed situation. The clashes continued for some time because of unfulfilled ambitions. The Super Powers, the USA and the Soviets, now have little role to play in fact—they were so fed up with the confusing civil war in Afghanistan that they had opted out of the dispute and had stopped the supply of weapons to either party. However, Pakistan has been in many ways the gainer. It is the only country that has established relations with the new regime in Kabul so far. It recognised the new ruling Council in Kabul as the legitimate government of Afghanistan.

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif paid a short visit to Kabul on April 29 to proclaim solidarity with the new rulers of Kabul. He held long talks with the interim head of State, Prof Mojadidi. Mr Sharif was the first foreign leader to visit Afghanistan after the switch of power. He was accompanied by a team of senior Pakistani Ministers.

Mr Sharif later announced that the destinies of the two countries were linked together. He asserted that "a new regional bloc is emerging with the Mujahideen victory." Possibilities of greater regional cooperation had opened up with the historic development. An Islamic and independent Afghanistan will facilitate easier access to Central Asia, together with Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and the former Soviet republics, "There will

be a big regional bloc." Pakistan, however, has yet to resolve the problem of three million Afghan refugees on its territory.

The background: In December, 1979, the Soviet Union sent its troops to occupy Afghanistan. They took over control and were in power for a decade during which they had their own nominee as President. On Feb 15, 1989, the Soviet Union completed the phased withdrawal of its 120,000 troops from Afghanistan after several years of fruitless occupation. There has been chaos, confusion and a tragic split among the hard hit people—especially the Mujahideen who resisted the Communists with sophisticated weapons supplied by the USA and Pakistan.

The humiliating Soviet withdrawal was reminiscent of the similar fate the Americans had to suffer in Vietnam many years ago. Both the giant powers tried to expand their respective sphere of influence without success.

The lesson of the Soviet misadventure and the sorry plight of Dr Najibullah in Afghanistan is clear. No independent, proud nation can be subjugated by a foreign power, whatever the quantum of military might it may use to achieve its aim.

The Soviet Union admittedly made gross miscalculations and a grievous error of judgement in despatching its troops to Afghanistan, ostensibly in response to an appeal by a beleaguered pro-Marxist regime in Kabul. Their initial aims were to counter what was described as "Western efforts to create a foyer of Islamic fundamentalism at the Soviets' doorsteps and to establish socialism in a poor, militarily weak, non-aligned, 99 per cent Muslim country." But every invader in Afghanistan's history has met with stiff resistance.

Historic agreements were

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reached on April 14, 1988, between the principal parties concerned Pakistan and Afghanistan, at loggerheads for several years, at last signed the agreement under which all Soviet troops would be withdrawn from Afghan territory within a maximum of nine months. Their phased withdrawal began on May 15, half of the estimated 115,000 troops were back home by August 15, 1988.

The representatives of the two Super Powers, Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the then Soviet Foreign Minister, also put their signatures to the accord as guarantors. All the four signatories agreed that in order to achieve the aim of a political settlement henceforth there would be no interference or intervention in any form in the affairs of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

A separate instrument, signed only by Mr Shultz and Mr Shevardnadze, stated that the USA and the Soviet Union 'undertake to invariably refrain from any form of interference in Afghan and Pakistani affairs'. Another instrument signed only by Afghanistan and Pakistan provided for the orderly return to their homeland of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

The Pakistanis welcomed the announcement in the hope that an agreement would reverse the tide of three million Afghan refugees who had settled in the northern areas of their country. Most Pakistanis were fed up with the influx of refugees who monopolised many important positions, acquired property as well as business, causing a squeeze on the permanent residents of the North West Frontier Province.

The rebels are split into several groups, some of them bitterly opposed to one another. There are fundamentalists, moderates and middlemen among them. The hand-picked "Shoora" represents almost all groups of Mujahideens, segments of Afghan opinion, and include field commanders inside Afghanistan who consistently resisted the Russians for a decade. The "Shoora" was

essentially a show of the seven-party Peshawar-based Mujahideen alliance.

For nearly 14 tragic, bloody years the Afghans have not known a day's peace. One of the monumental blunders the erstwhile USSR committed was to send its troops into an independent non-aligned country. Worse still, they stayed too long, abused and loathed though they were. Pakistan and the West used the Mujahideen as mercenaries and brought misery to the Afghan people. Some estimates put the death toll at two million. Tens of thousands of children have been orphaned.

U.N. Plan: In March, 1992, President Najibullah announced that he would step down to pave the way for a political settlement. The USA and Pakistan had made President Najibullah's removal a precondition for discussions on a political settlement. What the Mujahideen and their powerful backers could not achieve, was accomplished by Mr Benon Sevan, the UN Secretary General's energetic and politically astute Special Representative for Afghanistan, through quiet behind-the-scenes diplomacy. He not only succeeded in persuading Dr Najibullah to issue his self-denying statement but also hammered out a five-point UN plan.

The five points were: (i) The necessity of preserving the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and non-aligned and Islamic character of Afghanistan. (ii) Recognition of the right of the Afghan people to determine their own form of government and to choose their economic, political and social system free from outside intervention, subversion, coercion or constraint of any kind whatsoever. (iii) The need for a transition period details of which were to be worked out and agreed upon through an intra-Afghan dialogue, leading to the establishment of a broad-based government.

(a) The need, during that period, for transitional arrangements acceptable to the vast majority of the Af-

ghan people, the establishment of a transition mechanism with appropriate powers that would provide them with assurances to participate in free and fair elections, for establishment of a broad-based government. (b) The need for the cessation of hostilities during the transition period. (c) The advisability of assistance, as appropriate, of the UN and of any other international organisation during the transition period and in the electoral process.

(iv) The necessity of an agreement, to be implemented together with all agreed transitional arrangements, to end arms supplies to all Afghan sides by all.

This plan was given tacit support by the West, Pakistan and the former Soviet Union. The UN General Assembly, by its Resolution 45/12 of November 7, 1990, authorised the Secretary-General to implement the UN plan. The plan could not be fully implemented so long as Dr Najibullah and the Watan Party remained at the helm.

Mr Sevan paved the way for the end of hostilities. Additionally, he worked out another package which included general amnesty, human rights and UN guarantees to ensure the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and the non-aligned and Islamic character of Afghanistan. Kabul, Islamabad, Teheran, Riyadh, Moscow and Washington all agreed. The Mujahideen, too, reportedly fall in line. So did King Zahir Shah.

With the UN peace plan gone with the wind, and Najib ousted from Kabul, Afghanistan may split on tribal and ethnic lines. That would spell disaster for Pakistan. The demand for an independent Pushtoonistan may be revived with vigour. And the Baluchis may follow Pushtoons. Fears of fundamentalism have surfaced. The emergence of Prof Mojadidi and the formation of an interim government have been welcomed the world over. Hopes have been revived of a stable regime and of lasting peace.

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Focus on Role of Governors

The role played by State Governors has been the subject of controversy for quite some time, the main complainants being the States ruled by non-Congress parties. Some State Governors have been in the news lately, because of political manipulations. Although the Prime Minister's emphasis broadly has been on conciliation and consensus, every now and then a development takes place that reminds the country of needless Central interference in State affairs, especially the role of Governors. The region witnessed unprincipled politics.

UNFORTUNATELY, the office of the State Governor now stands debased. The questions arise: are the Governors of States mere agents, figureheads or political instruments of the Centre? Are they supposed to carry out its wishes in all circumstances or are they expected to exercise independence of judgement and act in their discretion when the circumstances so warrant? The recent developments in Nagaland focus attention on this matter.

Actually, the politics of the sensitive north-eastern States has been murky. Dr M.M. Thomas, the then Governor of Nagaland, was arbitrarily dismissed on April 12, 1992, for acting without consultations with the Centre, the appointing agency. He had dissolved the State Assembly without consulting the Central authorities and was blamed for certain acts of omission and commission which the Centre felt were not justified. But he asserted that he had not done anything wrong in dissolving the Assembly. "When a Chief Minister of a majority government recommends dissolution of the legislature, the Governor is bound to accept the advice", he said. Speaking at a farewell function at Raj Bhawan, Dr Thomas said that he had not taken a single paisa from anyone and had

maintained his integrity while in office.

Dr Thomas alleged that several State Congress leaders led by the former Chief Minister, Mr S.C. Jamir, had been trying to remove him from Nagaland. The Centre, he alleged, "was manipulating the State on its own whims, which might create serious problems". Dr Thomas's tenure was marked by five political crises. He did not have to consult the Centre before taking decisions while the V.P. Singh and the Chandra Shekhar governments were in power.

"I have been accused of not consulting the Centre before dissolving the House only this time", he complained. A Raj Bhawan communique said that Dr Thomas had refused to dismiss the former Chief Secretary, Mr S.S. Ahluwalia, as asked by the Centre. The newly appointed advisor to the Governor, Mr S.M. Krishnatri, had brought a letter from Delhi for Mr Ahluwalia's dismissal, which Dr Thomas had refused to sign.

None of the Congress leaders of the State attended Dr Thomas's farewell. The outgoing Governor said that he was not concerned about it. He asserted that he had acted in good faith. That should have been sufficient, for the point is not whether the Governor made a mistake in trusting Mr Vanuzo (whose majority in the legislature he had not checked) but whether the manner in which he had been treated by the Centre does not downgrade the office itself.

By first proclaiming President's Rule (on April 3) and then giving Dr Thomas the sack notice, New Delhi, it is widely felt, has made it clear that it expects all the Raj Bhawan incumbents to be obedient and meekly to do its bidding even to the extent of pandering to the specific political re-

quirements of the ruling party at the Centre. New Delhi has merely done what the local Congress leaders had been asking for all along.

Nehru's expectations: But this is not how a Governor was expected to function by someone like Nehru by whom the Congress swears. As the Sarkaria Commission pointed out, Nehru wanted a Governor to be a "detached figure" who "must not be known to be part of the party machine of that province", the implication being that in no circumstance should he be seen in the demeaning role of an agent of the Centre.

The reduction of this high office to being a tool can be said to have begun in 1980 when Mrs Indira Gandhi dismissed Mr Raghukul Tilak and Mr Prabhudas Patwari as Governors of Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, respectively, thereby making it clear to the other appointees of the previous Janata Government that she did not want them to stay on. This unhealthy practice was imitated by the V.P. Singh Government in 1989 when it asked all the Governors to resign in order to enable him to pick and choose. A few months later, the Chandra Shekhar Government dismissed Mr Yunus Saleem, the then Governor of Bihar, for reading out an address to the State Assembly that criticised the imposition of President's rule in Tamil Nadu at that time. It is clear from these developments that Nehru's dream of "eminent people....who have not taken too great a part in politics" gracing this sensitive constitutional position will not be realised in circumstances where so much emphasis is laid on political conformity.

The former Nagaland Governor said on April 19 in New Delhi that

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State Governors should be allowed to act independently in the interest of the federal structure of the country. Stating that too frequent Central intervention by invoking Article 356 could lead to "disintegration of the country, Dr Thomas said "such actions by the Centre are looked upon with suspicion by States, particularly the sensitive border States".

He defended his action in dissolving the Nagaland Assembly and contended that invoking of Article 356 by the Centre to supersede his dissolution of the Assembly under Article 174(b) was "constitutionally illegal". However, he made it clear that he was not challenging the Central action in the court but wanted to have a debate on it. He described as "concocted" the Home Ministry charges that he had been encouraging missionaries in Nagaland and was sympathetic to insurgency in the trouble-torn State.

According to the former Governor, in the federal structure the Centre had no right even after imposition of President's rule to tamper with the basic rights of the people of the State. As for the failure to take action against the former State Chief Secretary, Mr S.S. Ahluwalia, the Centre had not furnished him full details about corruption charges against him. The charges were nearly 16 years old and three State governments had not taken any action on these. In fact, the Vamuzo Government had issued an official gazette saying the charges would not be pursued.

Disciplinary action: Dr Thomas said under Rule seven of the All-India Services Discipline Rules, it was for the State Government to initiate disciplinary action against any erring official and in this case the State government itself had "irrevocably closed the matter". Dr Thomas contended that his stand had been vindicated by the Guwahati High Court which had stayed prosecution against the official.

The former Governor defended his action of acting on the advice of

the former Chief Minister, Mr Vamuzo, to dissolve the State Assembly. Quoting from the Sarkaria Commission report, Mr Thomas said he was bound by the advice of the Chief Minister and hence took action under Article 174. "I did not consult the Home Ministry or the President and I acted on my own as the Constitution gives the Governor authority and responsibility to act on his own."

The former Governor's understanding, "corroborated" by Supreme Court judgements and the Sarkaria Commission Report, has been that a Governor is not a mere agent of the Centre. "To let the Centre decide on some critical occasions would result in an abdication or distortion of his independent constitutional responsibility as a guardian of healthy Centre-State relations." In Nagaland stable party loyalty was not noticeable and only fresh elections could provide some chance of getting the "perennial jumpers" eliminated. Detections of State M.L.A.s were being engineered by Central leaders and others, creating an untenable situation.

The sequence of events preceding Dr Thomas's involuntary exit does not show him to be a Governor of high credentials as he has been made out to be by some. Moreover, while he is on strong ground in asserting that a Governor, while acting as the constitutional head of a State, is not obliged to seek instructions from the Centre, he erred in not making sure that the Chief Minister whose advice he was going to accept did in fact have a majority in the legislature.

Dr Thomas may have been right or wrong in accepting the advice of Mr Vamuzo (then Nagaland's Chief Minister) to dissolve the House and in asking him to stay on in power until fresh elections could be held. But the Union Government adopted a vindictive course. It imposed President's rule in Nagaland and removed Mr Vamuzo from his caretaker position. In doing so, the Centre neither received nor asked for

any report from the Governor. And yet it defended its action by citing some of the Governor's remarks he had used to justify his initial decision to dissolve the Assembly.

The Government should implement the Sarkaria Commission's sound recommendations on the selection and appointment of Governors, the fixity of their tenure and, above all, on the safeguards that ought to accompany the imposition of President's rule under Article 356.

Constitutional Position: Article 154 (Part VI) of the Constitution lays down that "the executive power of the State shall be vested in the Governor and shall be exercised by him directly or through officers subordinate to him in accordance with the Constitution."

Nothing in this article shall be deemed to transfer to the Governor any functions conferred by any existing law or on any other authority or prevent Parliament or the legislature of the State from conferring by law functions on any authority subordinate to the Governor...."

Article 156(1) provides that the Governor shall hold office during the pleasure of the President. This means that the President (in effect, the Union Government) may remove a Governor if the latter no longer enjoys the confidence of the President. But there is no Constitutional requirement for a State Governor to act on the dictates of the Centre.

The Centre-State relations and what have been called "the federal snag" also call for attention. The Centre has repeatedly encroached upon the powers and authority of the Centre. However the tendency towards concentration of powers at the Centre is a common phenomenon in most federal constitutions even in the U.S.A. where the residuary powers legally lie with the States, not with the Centre, as they do in India. The process of erosion of States' powers certainly needs to be checked and the process of decentralisation should be promoted.

The Banking Sector in India

For some time past the question of banking sector reforms has been the subject of debate. It is therefore betimes to take stock of the achievements and failures of the banking sector here in this feature

THE Banking Industry in India has undergone many innovative changes—structural, administrative and financial—since the nationalisation of the 20 scheduled commercial banks nearly 23 years ago in July 1969. Another revolutionary change is on the cards in the wake of the recent report of the Narasimham committee on financial institutions reforms and the pressure of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for then expeditious implementation. (In fact, this is one of the conditionalities of the Fund-Bank loans already advanced or likely to be done). It is, therefore, opportune to take stock of the growth and development of the network of banks.

Regional Growth

THE growth and spread of banks geographically has been phenomenal and the branch expansion has received a great impetus. During the span of over two decades, the country has witnessed seven-fold expansion in bank branch offices rising from 8321 as on July 19, 1969—the day of banks takeover—to 59,388 on June 30, 1990.

A significant fact in the expansion is the pronounced shift of 58.1 per cent to rural banking and a corresponding decline in the share of banks in the metropolitan towns (10.2 per cent down from 20 per cent). What is more, the new banks covered the unbanked areas. Thus, the emphasis in enlarging the bank base is on diversification rather than on concentration. Each branch now serves around 11,500 people as compared to 65,000 at the time of nationalisation of banks. A large chunk of the

population has now access to banking facility. Ironically enough, however, the customer service has reportedly deteriorated at least in the public sector banks. On the contrary, the foreign banks, in particular, and a majority of the private sector banks have an edge over the nationalised counterparts in the matter of customer service.

Low profitability is a visible sign of the poor performance of the public sector banks. For the year ended March 31, 1991, these banks recorded the lowest, 19.3 per cent, and the private banks the highest, 26.3 per cent rate of profit. Over staffing, un-economic rural branches, (mis)-directed investment pattern like the priority sector are held responsible for the poor showing/profitability of these banks. Narasimham committee has indicated these weaknesses and suggested reforms.

Deposits

THE modern banks (except the apex bank) are charged with two important functions: one, to accept deposits from individuals or corporations and two, make advances/credits.

Taking up the deposits aspect first. The total deposits of 28 public sector banks—State Bank of India, 7 Associated Banks of the SBI, and 20 nationalised banks—increased by 13.5 per cent to Rs 210,812 crore in 1990-91 from Rs 185,722 crore in the previous year, 1989-90, when the growth rate was higher at 18.3 per cent. This means deceleration in the bank deposits in 1990-91 as compared to the previous year. The nationalised banks could increase deposits by 12.7 per cent only during the aforesaid period while the SBI and its Associated Banks together accumulated deposits recording 15.3 per cent growth rate. The 15 private banks attracted deposits at a higher rate of 19.8 per cent during the same

period. The foreign banks did even better. They posted a record 32.5 per cent hike in deposits in 1990-91 at Rs 11,331 crore from Rs 8,553 crore in 1989-90, outshining the Indian banks.

A break-up of the deposits into term deposits, savings deposits and current deposits reveals that many Indian banks have been able to attract a high proportion of the term deposits, while the current deposits constitute relatively smaller share of the total deposits, though the latter are more beneficial to the banks as providers of funds.

Advances

THE bank deposits from the basis for making advances to the borrowers and therefore the growth rate of credits is, generally, less than that of deposits. Some Indian banks have as low growth rate of advances as 1.5 per cent.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recognises credit-deposit ratio as an important performance index of a bank. This ratio averaged 65.1 per cent a year during the decade of 1980s but fluctuated violently over the period. The 28 public sector banks attained marginally higher proportion at 62 per cent in 1990-91 as against 61.7 per cent in 1989-90 with SBI showing a very high ratio of 81 per cent in the former year. The implication of the high credit-deposit ratio is that a large portion of the deposits has been used to maximise interest earning.

Investment

THE investments by the various Indian banks during the two years make an interesting study. They have scaled up in absolute terms in 1990-91 over the previous year level, but not as a proportion of the deposits in the corresponding years.

Of the Indian scheduled commercial banks, the private banks registered the highest increase of 19.7

per cent in investment in 1990-91 compared to 1989-90 followed by the nationalised banks (15 per cent), the Associated Banks of the SBI (13.2 per cent) and the SBI (11.6 per cent). The group of foreign banks has outdone the Indian banks with 60.7 per cent increase in investment in 1990-91 over the previous year level.

Investments of all Indian banks as a proportion of the total deposits have shown a climb down in 1990-91 compared to the same ratio in 1989-90. The story is entirely different in the case of the foreign banks as this ratio has improved in the former year over the latter.

Income & Profit

THE 20 nationalised banks earned more income recording 16.7 per cent increase between the aforesaid two years. Consequently, the profits have also increased but the "quantum of profits has been far from satisfactory". On the contrary the private banks have achieved the largest growth rate of profits (72.6 per cent) in 1990-91 as against the previous year. For the nationalised banks this was a difficult year.

Why do the public sector banks earn low profits? It is because the deposits with them are used as directed-investments determined by the State policies and not at the discretion of the banks themselves. The high Credit Reserve Ratio (CRR) and the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) impound large amounts of funds resulting in less income and hence low level of profits. The promotional role and the social obligations with which the banks are charged obstruct their operation as commercial institutions.

Foreign Banks

AS already stated, the 20 foreign banks operating in India have achieved higher growth rates in deposits and credits in 1990-91 than those of their Indian counterparts. The deposits registered a growth of 32.5 per cent in the case of foreign banks while the Indian scheduled commercial banks (43) could make only 13.7 per cent growth rate.

The growth rate of credits in 1990-91 stood at 38.6 per cent com-

pared to 1989-90. The credits thus grew faster than the deposits in the foreign banks. Consequently, the credit-deposit ratio rose from 59.6 per cent in 1989-90 to 61 per cent in the following year. It may be pointed out that credits have not outpaced deposits in all the foreign banks. For example, deposits grew faster than credits in the Hongkong Bank.

The investment/deposit ratio in the 20 foreign banks increased to 37.3 per cent in 1990-91 from 30.7 per cent in the previous year.

The net profits of the foreign banks have risen during the last year (1990-91), thanks to the government policies which fortuitously stood them in good stead. They are under no compulsions to direct resources into social priority sector or to launch branch expansion in the semi-urban, rural and un-banked areas as the nationalised banks are required to do.

It would be in order to refer here to the policy change in respect of the foreign banks. Hitherto, the foreign banks have been subject to certain restrictions and were not allowed branch expansion. This provided a protective shield to the Indian banks. The situation has changed radically now. The foreign banks already in operation in India or the new entrants will have the freedom to open branch offices. The RBI's approval to do this is awaited with bated-breath. As soon as green signal is given to open the branches, the Indian banks will be lashed with the winds of competition.

It is high time that all restrictions impeding the widening of the base of the Indian banks are removed as has been done in the case of trade and industry. Reports say that "the prospects of foreign banks spreading their wings have sent nationalised banks into a tizzy". The apprehension is that the foreign banks may make inroads into profitable niche markets thanks to their high profile ads for innovative deposit products.

It is worth mentioning that the foreign banks, unlike their Indian counterparts are autonomous to determine the prices of their

products. They stipulate a minimum deposit for the savings bank and current account and charge a penalty if the deposits of a customer fall below the minimum limit. This is their way of ensuring that customers pay for their efficient personalised service. A moot question is whether the Indian banks can adopt such a policy. If not, how can they render efficient personalised service to the clientele as done by the foreign banks?

Conclusion

THE upshot of our discussion is that in the changing scenario of the Indian economy, the banking sector need to be overhauled if it has to stand international competition and ensure integration with the banks the world over.

The Narasimham committee has made far-reaching recommendations for the bank reforms. In the new structural pattern the committee suggests formation of 3 or 4 large banks to serve as international banks, including the SBI, 8 to 10 national banks with a country-wide network, local or regional banks and rural banks having only rural business. De-politicisation of appointments in banks, particularly in the top brass posts, is emphasised in the committee report. The dual control of the RBI and the Finance Ministry should end. Autonomy, integrity, liberalisation and flexibility should be adopted as the key words of the banking policy reforms. With the de-regulation of the financial sector, the financial institutions will be able to forge closer international links with the world markets and impart Indian banks a competitive edge. An important, yet very controversial, recommendation regarding cut in priority sector investment calls for closer examination as it essentially conflicts with the ideal of a welfare State. On the other hand, there is the thorny problem of squeezing fiscal deficit in the budgets. Directed investment cuts into banks' profitability and flexibility. With the distancing of the State from the nationalised banks and a self-imposed ban on further bank nationalisation would amount to a retreat from the past policies although it might be consistent with the liberalisation policy.

NPT: India Under Pressure

International, especially US, pressure on India to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) has lately been mounting. Signing on the dotted line by India is being linked to generous economic aid and also to political benefits. With China, France and South Africa deciding to sign the treaty, the western insistence has acquired more intensity. And then there is Japan's pressure too.

Those who urge India to fall in line stress the probable gains. This course will reduce tensions in the Indian sub-continent and will enhance this country's security, it will almost certainly put pressure on Pakistan to do likewise (its spokesmen have already said their country would sign if India does so), it would bring more aid from several countries and also from multilateral agencies, this conformity would end India's isolation on the issue.

But those who are opposed to India's signing the highly inequitable and discriminatory treaty point out the Government of India would be accused of surrendering to Western, especially American, pressure and tactics, there would be no guarantee against the use of Chinese nuclear weapons, besides it would still be highly doubtful whether Pakistan would abandon its nuclear weapons programme.

India has made it clear that though it is opposed to the NPT, it fully supports the aim—non proliferation of nuclear weapons in the world. The US claims to be a strong advocate of nuclear non-proliferation but it has put forward a modified definition: no new nuclear weapons should emerge and the existing nuclear weapon powers should be allowed not only to keep them but to continue testing them and even building better nuclear weapons. Other weapon powers too are equally keen to maintain their monopoly. The US asserts that so long as it has nuclear weapons, it must test them periodically to make sure they will work in an emergency. It will not follow the French example to suspend nuclear testing.

1. The NPT

THE much-publicised Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty was signed in London, Washington and Moscow on July 1, 1968. It came into force on March 5, 1970.

The treaty does not provide any mechanism for verifying that nuclear-weapon powers do not pass on nuclear materials, bomb-making equipment, design information or skilled personnel to other countries in contravention of the obligation they undertake. Article I of the treaty lays down "Each nuclear weapon-State party to the treaty undertakes not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, or control over such weapons or explosive devices, directly or indirectly, and not in any way assist, encourage, or induce any non nuclear weapon State to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, directly or indirectly, and not in any way assist, encourage, or induce any non nuclear weapon State to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices."

This article has been flouted by the nuclear weapon powers. A Trident missile is a nuclear weapon carrier and part of an integrated nuclear weapon system. Hence the transfer of Trident missiles from the USA to the UK, with or without nuclear warheads would constitute a breach of the treaty. There is no verification to establish that there is no transfer of warheads from the USA to the UK for this system.

On the day China acceded to the NPT, information came from Germany about the arrest of two Russian citizens of Germanic origin who were trying to sell 12 kg of weapon-grade enriched uranium for \$11 million. It is alleged that the enriched uranium originated from Russian atomic facilities. This incident highlights the

lack of safeguards on the sources of special nuclear materials, namely the nuclear-weapon powers.

This is not a new problem but has been there from the beginning of the NPT. Even when the USA was signing the draft NPT, it was aware of the fact that Israel had removed from the US military facility Nurech of Apollo, Pennsylvania, hundreds of kg of weapon-grade enriched uranium. Yet the USA ensured that nuclear weapon powers would be exempt from safeguards and they will apply only to non-nuclear weapon powers.

Recently, there have been reports about heavy water from Norway having found their way to India and Israel. The non-proliferation fundamentalists do not raise questions about the inadequacy of safeguards on the supply side which is bound by treaty obligations not to permit such supplies but create a lot of fuss about the recipient side which has no such obligation, in order to bypass the real responsibility for leakage. There is a black market in nuclear material and it is obvious that those materials could have emanated only from the unsafeguarded facilities of the nuclear weapon powers.

Dismaying Discovery: There is widespread admission now that the NPT has not checked the proliferation of nuclear weapons. In spite of having signed the NPT and despite having suffered a humiliating military defeat, Iraq made startling progress in developing nuclear weapons and missiles. And this has been the impetus to the international efforts to see to it that every country signs the NPT on the dotted line or binds itself in some regional commitment or other.

The decision by the US and the Soviet Union, following Mr Bush's historic initiative in 1991 to abolish theatre or short-range nuclear weapons and to make deep cuts in their strategic nuclear arsenals, has

prompted champions of the NPT to claim that they are on "strong moral ground" to demand universal acceptance of the treaty which has by no means ceased to be discriminatory inasmuch as it seeks to make the possession of nuclear weapons the monopoly of the five permanent members of the Security Council, also called the "P-five", in perpetuity.

The logic of what the U.N. inspectors have uncovered in Iraq ought to have prompted the concerned countries to question the efficacy or even the relevance of the NPT, as also the veracity of the US-led coalition's claims of having pulverised Iraq's capacity to build atomic, biological and chemical weapons. Instead, the nuclear weapons power have started a dual drive to "put teeth" in the NPT and to bring within its purview all the countries that have not yet agreed to sign it. Pakistan's ambassador to the U.N., Mr Jamshed Marker, was heard describing the current campaign as a "pincer movement" against the nuclear have-nots.

Dr Hans Blix, Director-General of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is the only organisation at the U.N.'s disposal to enforce the NPT by inspecting the nuclear installations of the nations subscribing to the treaty, has been consulting the Big Powers in order to "tighten the IAEA safeguards and inspection procedures" which have clearly been shown to be lax and ineffectual. And that is what "putting teeth" into the NPT is all about.

II. India's Nuclear Status

PAKISTAN lost its "nuclear virginity" quite some time ago. The requirement of the Pressler amendment remains unfulfilled in respect of Pakistan. China's strides in the field of nuclear arms are known. India has rightly shed its tactical ambivalence and the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr P.K. Iyengar, told the International Atomic Energy Agency: "It is clear that the signing of an agreement or a treaty by itself is not the recipe for preventing proliferation. What is more important is self-restraint and India,

despite having crossed the threshold in nuclear technology, continues to exercise self-restraint."

India's march to the nuclear field has been long, self-sustained and morally mandated. After Independence, Indian scientists, deeply conscious of the role of atomic energy in tackling the energy crisis, improving the agricultural situation and fighting certain dreaded diseases, agreed with the science-soaked Nehru that it was necessary to acquire nuclear capability through buying and learning from the advanced countries wherever possible and through our own vigorous research and development efforts in fields, workshops and laboratories of the right kind. Credible capability was created by exploration and digging for atomic minerals, preparation of high purity nuclear materials like uranium, thorium, plutonium and zirconium, production of fuel for reactors and their control systems, preparation of heavy water, evolution of safety instruments and careful processing of the spent fuel and the waste matter. Tarapur, Kota, Madras, Narora... The movement made commendable progress. At least five reactors did vigorous work. The technology, among other things, became capable of handling a considerable amount of high flux natural uranium completely indigenously. The department of Atomic Energy made self-reliance and peaceful use its motto.

The powerful and peaceful underground experiment, carried out at Pokhran in May 1974, was a landmark. This explosion had a clear objective—to see how far such a blast could help to crush rocks in the sub-structure of the earth. Incidentally, it sent ominous messages in and around the sub-continent and to the paranoid critics of India abroad. We said we had achieved a certain degree of expertise in nuclear technology, our critics said we had acquired the knowhow for making the bomb.

India, the Government has repeatedly declared, will not make atomic bombs but it will not commit itself to a bogus treaty where there is no truthful adherence to the avowed objectives. Way back in 1968, the then

Indian Ambassador, Mr Azim Hussein, explained through his 11-point argument at the UN why the treaty was titled in favour of the "nuclear haves". Briefly, it did not seek to ensure the non-proliferation of nuclear weapon States without imposing any curbs on the continued manufacture, stockpiling and sophistication of such weapons by the existing nuclear powers.

The NPT is discriminatory in regard to the safeguards and controls which were all imposed on the non-nuclear weapon States while none of these was imposed on the nuclear weapon States. Twenty-two years later one finds that the two super powers have stockpiled several times more of the killer weapons and made them more destructive and easy to transport or hurl to points from where mass destruction can be achieved. The potential use of nuclear weapons has become the international currency of power. The disclosures from Iraq (an NPT signatory) expose the hollowness of the inspection system. The amount of nuclear arms the USA had taken to Kuwait and Iraq a few months ago shows how unconvincing its own commitment to the abjuration of these killer weapons is. Israel, South Africa, China and Pakistan all have made their nuclear capability known.

If India has to sign the NPT, it should do so as a peaceful nuclear weapon-State, what it potentially is, after ensuring that Pakistan and China pledge themselves to non-interference in neighbours' affairs and to settlement of disputes through bilateral talks. The NPT is more a question of discrimination than an answer to the nuclear proliferation problem. A country with wisdom, maturity and hard-earned expertise dedicated to peace cannot be hoodwinked into a treaty of coercion.

III. India Not to Sign NPT

INDIA on March 16 this year categorically ruled out signing of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and in effect turned down the US proposal for a five-nation summit to discuss non-proliferation in South Asia. The Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, ex-

plained that while India was prepared to talk to the US on non-proliferation, given the ground realities, the five-nation meeting could become "an exercise in acrimony".

The Minister categorically stated that there was no change in India's position with regard to the NPT; the Foreign Secretary had reaffirmed that New Delhi would not sign such a treaty as it was "discriminatory". Making a distinction between India's position on the NPT and on nuclear non-proliferation, Mr Faleiro referred to Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's speech at the UN Security Council on January 31 in which he recalled an "Action Plan" for disarmament put forward by Rajiv Gandhi in 1988.

The "Action Plan" called upon all nuclear weapon-States to eliminate their nuclear arsenals by the year 2010 at the latest. Mr Rao had suggested advancing of this time-frame to the year 2000. India is committed to this Plan.

Avoiding polemics: According to authoritative sources in New

Delhi, the US does not expect India to sign the NPT straightaway but would welcome proposals to break the current impasse. India opposes the NPT on the ground that it discriminates between nuclear haves and have-nots. New Delhi does not regard the concept of a nuclear-free zone to be feasible in South Asia's case since it does not take into account the presence on India's border of China which is a nuclear weapons power.

At the same time, however, India cannot be oblivious of the growing trend in favour of non-proliferation as exemplified in the recent vote for a Pakistan-sponsored resolution in the UN on a nuclear weapon-free zone in South Asia.

Another contentious issue between India and the US—the sale of an Indian reactor to Iran—was also high on the agenda of Mr Bartholomew's discussions in Delhi. India's view is that so long as Iran, which has signed the NPT, states that the reactor will be used for peaceful purposes only, there is no reason not to go ahead with the sale. It is on

these very grounds that several Western countries have sold such research reactors to Iran and others in the past.

As an NPT country, Iran has to accept international inspection of all its nuclear facilities. The Americans, however, are concerned about the sale because Iraq, which is also an NPT signatory, managed to manufacture weapons in clear violation of the NPT clauses.

India, according to reliable sources, is not insensitive to these concerns but it believes that the question of inspection will need to be discussed within a framework which avoids arbitrary discrimination against a particular set of countries. Any attempt to bring pressure to bear on India would be counter-productive, the sources said, adding that India, on its part, would react to the changed international climate on the proliferation issue with flexibility but without sacrificing its interests.

On November 24, 1991, Dr Hans Blix, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

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had a 45-minute meeting with Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, on issues relating to nuclear proliferation and its control. Mr Rao assured Dr Blix that India was steadfastly pursuing a peaceful nuclear programme and the country had no weapon programme. Mr Rao reiterated that India has maintained high standards of integrity in implementing its nuclear programme.

IV. Isolation of India

IN November last, further evidence of nuclear hypocrisy was available. The Soviet Union voted in favour of Pakistan and against India on the issue of making South Asia a nuclear-free zone. The trend also indicated the kind of pressure India is having to face to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT). India's principled stand has now the backing only of Bhutan and Mauritius.

The hypocrisy of the prophets who profess non-proliferation but do not believe in practice is apparent in the debate in the U.N. Political Committee meeting. The committee's resolution, mercifully, is only recommendatory and not binding on the General Assembly. As is obvious, Pakistan's cleverly timed proposal is only to divert US attention away from its own nuclear programme which is in an advanced stage and to put India on the mat instead. The Soviet decision is an indicator of its present helplessness; it has no option but to support every such US proposal. The US stated, however, that its support to the resolution does not constitute a blanket endorsement of n-weapon free zones in other regions of the world.

In view of China's nuclear programme, India's representative is right in pointing out that the global reach of nuclear weapons and their deployment has diminished the importance of regional nuclear-free zones and the solutions should be global. That is not to underestimate the strength of world opinion in a unipolar world. If a surrender on the issue would be unwise, ploughing a lonely furrow would also be not pragmatic. India does have to give proof about its honest intentions. The policy planners have a lot of tight-rope walking in the days to come to

bring the world round to its view that what is needed is a Comprehensive Test Ban (CTB) treaty, which is opposed by the USA. The majority of the countries seem to be more than willing to go with the untenable US view that the threat to global peace comes mainly from developing countries.

V. China Signs NPT

TWENTY FOUR years after the Non-proliferation Treaty was approved by the Security Council and 22 years after it came into force, China, which earlier denounced the treaty as "hegemonistic", finally deposited its instruments of ratification with one of the three depository States, Britain. This was done during the visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister to London on March 9, 1992.

The belated accession of China was projected as a great contribution to non-proliferation by the Western leaders. Basically, China is a guilty party. It has already passed on nuclear weapon design to Pakistan. This happened as far back as 1983-84. Thereby China becomes the only nuclear weapon power to have deliberately helped a non-nuclear weapon-State to acquire nuclear weapon capability to prevent which is the sole justification of the NPT.

China's subscription to the Treaty has a symbolic value on two counts. Apart from formally committing Beijing to uphold its provisions, the accession of China, like that of France, a few months earlier, fills a major gap among the treaty's adherents. They can now draw satisfaction from the fact that two acknowledged nuclear weapon powers, which had so far refused to fall in line with the other three who sponsored the treaty, have now shed their objections and enhanced the stature of the club by joining it.

In practical terms however, this change makes no difference because the treaty imposes no restraints on weapon programmes of members with declared arsenals. The obligation to observe restraints on exports of sensitive materials is one that China claims to have been honouring already, a case in point being the stipulation made in connection with the sale of a nuclear power reactor to

Pakistan that it will have to be placed under international safeguards. France is of late setting even more stringent conditions, requiring buyers of nuclear equipment to put all their facilities under safeguards and not just those the French supply.

With China and France brought into the fold, the pressure will increase on States like India who refuse to sign the NPT, and on those like North Korea who have not agreed to allow inspection of facilities. All signs point to a growing international consensus against letting any country keep its nuclear option open. Much energy has been expended on obtaining assurances from the former Soviet republics that all of them, barring the successor Russian State, will relinquish nuclear capabilities and sign the NPT as non-weapon States. There is, however, no guarantee that all weapons, specially the smaller tactical ones, will be duly accounted for, raising the danger of clandestine transfer to countries, or even militant groups in a position to pay for the acquisitions.

India, situated in close proximity to volatile West Asia, raises the pertinent question how the international community is going to deal with this new danger. The Americans say that mechanisms are in place to prevent leakages, but it is obvious that neither they nor others maintaining a similar facade, can at all be sure that there will be no surprises. Yet they are trying to brush away the doubts such as those India has raised under the carpet in a vain bid to make the NPT look good as a safety net that it clearly has failed to be. This is as unfortunate as it is dangerous.

China's accession to the NPT is being converted into a public relations exercise and India has to counter its impact in the public relations field. India has to offer similar public relations gimmicks. One of them is to offer to sign the NPT on the same terms as China, especially since India has conducted a nuclear test and is eligible to be defined as a nuclear-weapon State under Article IX(3) of the treaty, except for the date stipulated, January 1, 1967. The ex-

pectation in making this offer is not that it will be readily accepted but it gives India a diplomatic advantage in declaring that "we are prepared to sign the treaty with this small modification". This will have no impact in respect of any other State since there is no other country except India and the five nuclear-weapon powers that has conducted a test.

China too is paying only lip service to the cause of establishing a regional non-proliferation regime. It has signed the NPT but is going the France way in violating the promise of non-transference of nuclear weapon-related technologies to non-weapon States. The point is that it has signed the treaty only after stockpiling a large arsenal over the past 27 years. Still, it has made it clear that it will not accept any conditions on its nuclear programme because it claims it has nothing to do with South Asia, where its role is only peripheral. Its 10-year programme to double the size of its nuclear armoury by 1996 is likely to continue, and even the assurance of "no first use" of nuclear

weapons needs to be taken with a pinch of salt.

VI. Japanese Aid and NPT

JAPANESE Prime Minister Mr Kichi Miyazawa, told the visiting Indian Foreign Minister on January 21 last that Japan was ready to expand economic assistance to India. "We would like to do as much as we can", Mr Miyazawa was quoted as saying in response to requests from the then Foreign Minister, Mr Solanki, for Japan's expanded economic cooperation.

Both Mr Miyazawa and Mr Solanki agreed there was an absolute need for Japan and India to intensify their dialogue, aimed at building a solid relationship of cooperation.

Mr Solanki succeeded in obtaining a Japanese understanding of India's position on the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. He also made it clear that the NPT issue would in no way affect Japanese aid to India. Both of them agreed that in the rapidly changing world, the two nations

should maintain "intensified high-level interactions and dialogue". Mr Solanki asserted at a press conference here that there was no question of the NPT affecting aid as they were not related.

But the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr Michio Watanabe, said only in general terms that Japan would like to consider matters such as disarmament, human rights and environmental issues in the context of its aid.

Asked what he thought of Pakistan's proposals on the nuclear issue, the Minister said the proposal of the Pakistan premier was difficult to accept. While India had no nuclear weapons, Pakistan was rumoured to have them.

New N-Bully: India has not so far been asked to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) at gun point but the threat of aid cut is no less potent a weapon. The latest policeman is Japan which threw broad enough hints to India's then Foreign Minister, Mr Solanki, that it would cut development aid to India unless it signed on the line dotted by



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The Chairman

the USA. Mr Solanki's pleadings that the treaty greatly discriminated against the countries that did not claim to have nuclear weapons when it was drawn up and assigned them greater duties than those which have such weapons did not cut much ice with Mr Watanabe, his Japanese counterpart, who indicated that his country would go ahead with the threat because public opinion there was in its favour. That will be more than unfortunate for India, considering that Japan is one of its biggest aid donors. The unprecedented balance of payments crisis in 1991 could be tided over mainly because Tokyo promptly pledged \$866 million in concessional loans to Delhi. A stoppage of such aid can be fatal for the economy. This type of blackmail is reprehensible no doubt, but the strength of international sentiment against nuclear proliferation is too strong to be ignored.

The collapse of the Soviet Union has made India's position untenable with the NPT pressure becoming almost universal. Since even important hold-outs against the NPT like France, China, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa and North Korea now formally back the treaty, its future looks secure even beyond 1995 when it is scheduled to come up for review. That leaves out only India, Pakistan and Israel, among which the last named enjoys a "special status" in the US scheme of things. Since Pakistan has always said that it would sign the treaty if India does so, the latter remains the last bastion of resistance. The developments of 1991 pose a major challenge to India's nuclear policy and it has to devise a new framework, taking into account the realities of our nuclear environment and preserve our basic security interests. In an attempt not to be seen at odds with the world opinion it has to visibly support the international efforts to prevent the further proliferation of nuclear weapons and articulate steps for arms control and confidence-building measures to avert a nuclear war with Pakistan.

VII Pressler's Pressure

THERE was much satisfaction in this country over Senator Larry Pressler's "certificate" that his amendment denying US aid to

countries making nuclear weapons would not be applicable to India. We also seemed to be pleased that Mr Pressler has attested that Pakistan must be making such fiendish nuclear weapons.

But Mr Pressler himself repeated his demand, in polite language, that India should sign the NPT, a theme which "no American politician or official, high or low, has missed to sermonise to us".

When the Pressler Amendment was first mooted in the US Congress, India was very much there as a target along with Pakistan; later it was modified to single out only Pakistan. In the UN General Assembly, the resolution calling for South Asia to be turned into a nuclear weapons-free zone was passed, this time by a record majority with only India opposing along with Bhutan and Mauritius.

When Mr Narasimha Rao attended the special U.N. Security Council session in January, 1992, there was massive pressure on him to agree to sign the NPT or at least to make an official declaration abjuring the manufacture and use of nuclear weapons. The ultimate weapon in the Big Power armoury is the question of giving us much-needed loans. The Fund-Bank and most of the G-7 bigwigs might withhold any credit, we are told, unless and until we agree to NPT.

As for Pakistan, it is strange that we should at all be applauding the USA for bullying Pakistan. Our problem with Pakistan in the last four decades has been to a large measure centred round the question that successive governments in that country leant heavily on the US and thereby intensified their intransigent attitude to our country. The immorality of big power bullying that they themselves could possess nuclear weapons, and nobody else, must not be forgotten.

We seek total and irrevocable destruction of all nuclear weapons. This applies particularly to the big powers with their frightening nuclear arsenals. Incidentally, there is no pressure on the part of the big powers to force Israel to sign the NPT, through the Jewish State has

reached nuclear weapons capability, if not already manufactured the bomb. Instead, Israel is a beneficiary of US arms. So long as the big powers do not destroy their arsenals, there cannot be any selective abjuration of nuclear weapons by India or Pakistan.

VIII. India Rejects NWFZ

WOULD a nuclear weapons-free zone be a realistic way out of the problem? A South Asian NWFZ would mean that no nuclear weapons are manufactured or deployed by or in countries of the region, nor are they targeted at or in any country of the region.

India has firmly rejected the concept of nuclear weapons-free zones and called for a global and comprehensive approach to non-proliferation to save humanity from a nuclear disaster. "Regional arrangements, bilateral agreements, nuclear weapons-free zones and other technical fixes, which have become popular over the last two decades, have clearly failed to arrest the number of nuclear weapons from growing qualitatively or quantitatively", said Mr Parkash Shah, leader of the Indian delegation to the conference on disarmament in Geneva on March 25 this year. Nor have they succeeded in prevention and increase in the number of countries with possible control over divided nuclear arsenals.

It is the failure of the NPT to provide an acceptable balance of mutual responsibility and obligations between nuclear and non-nuclear weapon States, that not only allowed but even encouraged proliferation of nuclear weapons by nuclear-weapon States.

While non-nuclear weapon States such as India scrupulously adhered to a policy of non-proliferation despite acquiring the capability to use nuclear energy for military purposes, and refrained from assisting any other State from developing nuclear weapons, there was free and frantic competition amongst nuclear-weapon States to reach the pinnacle of achievement in acquiring nuclear destructive capacity to destroy the world many times over.



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Argumentative Questions on Social and Economic Problems

CHEAP JUSTICE, COSTLY JUDGES

Q. "Cheap justice means costly Judges." Do you accept this view? Give arguments For and Against this view.

Ans. The Chief Justice of India, Mr Justice M.H. Kania, inaugurating a lawyers' Conference recently, sought to dispel the notion that expenditure on the judiciary was a luxury, something that can almost be dispensed with. He urged that the judiciary should be treated on a par with defence or the police as it performed a fundamental duty of democracy. For many years the Judges' salaries continued to be relatively low. Despite the increasing inflation and the frequent raise in the salaries and allowances of other State employees, the Judges' emoluments remained virtually untouched. The Judges, however, are not a highly vocal and articulate section of society and have suffered silently on this count. The dispensation of justice in India is very slow and it is also very expensive. But the question is: will higher salaries and allowances to the Judges ensure cheap justice? And would that be a fair arrangement?

Arguments For the View

1. The inordinate judicial delays and the arrears of cases running into thousands at various levels, especially in the High Courts and the Supreme Court, are indeed a scandal. Such immense delays in deciding cases have eroded the people's confidence in the effectiveness of the judiciary. There is hardly any incentive for the poorly paid Judges and Sub-Judges to expedite the dispensation of justice.

2. In order to get better work from the judiciary, the Judges must be paid better salaries to enable them to lead a reasonably good life. If, to meet the countrywide demand by both the Government and the people, justice is to be made available cheap and speedy, Judges will have to be costly, the Chief Justice has said, while pointing to the unsatisfactory working conditions of the Judges of lower and middle level courts. He speaks from first-hand experience and his view must be respected.

3. It is at the lower and middle-level courts that there is considerable inefficiency and corruption. When a Judge posted to a new place is obliged to go looking anxiously for a house, how can he be expected to remain scrupulously impartial? The Judges may in such cases be soft towards people who (or their client) assure them suitable accommodation on attractive terms.

4. The Judges at various levels, including the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, have described the mounting arrears in the courts as a "veritable volcano" that can damage irreparably the foundations of our judicial system. Any step that can be expected to expedite decisions in pending cases would be welcome. Payment of higher salaries is one such step. A discontented, inadequately paid judiciary is apparently a drag on the system and, in effect, a hindrance in the smooth functioning of the courts. The lack of adequate judicial experience among some judges makes matters worse. The recent case of a Guwahati High Court Judge proves the point. The Supreme Court quashed his appointment in

March this year. The failure to ensure speedy justice to the needy is a clear violation of the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

Arguments Against the View

1. While it is only just and fair that all members of the judiciary should be adequately paid, like other categories of employees of the State, the implication that a Judge is not meeting out justice in the real sense because his salary is not high, or at any rate not of the level the Judge expects, is surely odd. The disposal of court cases should not be linked in any way with the Judge's emoluments.

2. During the past few years many people noticed that influential industrialists, businessmen and certain other prominent people have managed to get speedy justice while lakhs of poor people remain waiting for years on end for their petitions to be heard and injustices redressed. This means that direct or indirect monetary and other pressures have begun to count a good deal in securing justice, or the rich and influential people's version of it.

3. Practising lawyers of the Bombay High Court and of some other tribunals represented to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to point out the disquieting developments. Some of the Judges have repeatedly flouted the norms and rules prescribed for hearing court cases. The credibility of the judiciary has been eroded because of the conduct or misconduct of some members of the judiciary. The extra-ordinary expediency shown in a leading Indian business house's case shocked

the people.

4. If indeed the impression goes round that justice is only for the rich and by the rich, that would mark the virtual end of all democratic institutions. A Judge rightly lamented that "my conscience protests to me when thousands of remediless wrongs wait in the queue a diamond exporter's case gets attention promptly."

5. In the context of the Justice V. Ramaswami case, the first of its kind in the country's judicial history, our judiciary and society have begun to feel that higher level judges should also be made liable to scrutiny. Experts recall that judges in the U.S.A. have to face stricter scrutiny. Both legal ability and ethical fitness are closely examined. It has been noticed that one out of five judges nominated for the U.S. Supreme Court does not get confirmed. Even personal life and the entire career are thoroughly scrutinised through a 21-page questionnaire. In India this is not being done at present and there is much scope for favouritism and exerting pressures.

DREAMS OF LEFTISTS

Q. "Consolidation of Leftists is a distant and an improbable dream; therefore they should abandon their negative postures and back the positive policies of the ruling groups." Give arguments For and Against the view.

Ans. The latest developments indicate that a realignment of political forces is almost certain. The changing circumstances and the developments within the country and abroad stress the need for unity among the Leftists' groups. If the various groups and dissidents join hands and agree to sink their differences, it would be a great service to the country. It is the ceaseless dissidence, of which the groupism and factionalism are clear manifestations, that is one of the biggest obstacles to regional and national unity. There is no doubt that the negative developments in various parts of the world, especially where there are Leftist forces in some strength, have created voids. The voids in major political parties

create a series of problems which generally tend to worsen an already disconcerting situation. On the other hand, positive and constructive policies tend to promote peace and amity.

Arguments For the View

1. The Leftists of various shades have both ideological and political differences which seem to be permanent. There is no meeting point between the extremes. Since there is little possibility of the ideological differences getting resolved, the chances of consolidation of the Leftist forces in the country are remote.

2. The repeated efforts made during the past few years have proved fruitless. At its fourth congress held in 1968, the CPI went in for a radical revision of its outdated ideas and stereotyped positions and gave up the "tiresome phase of unity of communist revolutionaries" in favour of interaction with the main Left parties. The CPI (M-L) also gave a call for a Left and democratic confederation. The efforts yielded little and the various parties concerned apparently reconciled themselves to the situation as it was. Each group has its own identity and self-interest in mind.

3. The CPM General Secretary, Mr Harkishen Singh Surjeet, pointed out at the CPI's 15th triennial congress, held at Hyderabad in mid-April this year, that the Left forces in the country remain weak; the Naxalites have not joined the mainstream of the Left movement.

4. The Left movement in the country, the CPM leaders themselves admit, has remained weak over the years, although the certain groups and parties had considerable prestige. The CPI's electoral base and performance in various States have stagnated instead of growing. The hopes of further consolidation have faded.

Arguments Against the View

1. In most parts of the world the rightist forces are no longer gaining strength. The trend is against capitalism and conservatism. Reac-

tionary elements still stand discredited since they take the country backward and thwart progress.

2. A resolution passed by the Communist Party of India in April rightly asserted that Socialism as such has not failed following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The developments in the former U.S.S.R. and in East Europe showed that only a particular model of Socialism had failed. The great gains and advances of the erstwhile Soviet Union in the world after the October Revolution testified to the historical meaning and role of that Revolution and its creative ideology.

3. The deepening crisis of the model of socialism built up, the accumulated flaws and perversions and the gross mistakes committed by the Gorbachov leadership. This means that the leadership and implementation of policies failed, not the principles and theory of socialism. This lapse led to the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The Leftists have a point in stating that the double-dealing manoeuvres of imperialist forces had succeeded in their aims of subverting the Soviet Union. That had been the aim of the capitalist West for many decades.

4. Socialism guarantees livelihood to all, though it breeds complacency and takes away the main incentive to exertion and fruitful activity. If the Leftists abandon their destructive attitudes and negative tactics, the country and society, of which they are a part, would gain immensely.

5. At present the Leftists oppose the policies of the ruling groups in the States on principle and do not judge the Government's decisions on merit. They condemn all official policies as "anti-people". This unfair trend is one reason why the majority of the people generally do not have much regard for Socialists, Communists and other Leftists many of whom have the dubious distinction of being professional agitators, strike organisers and trouble-makers.

Taking to the streets for every issue is not conducive to the promotion of national interest. In the eyes of the public they lose much credibility.

TRIBAL STATE—DANGEROUS PRECEDENT

Q. "Establishment of a new State comprising tribals of several States of Central and Eastern India would be a dangerous precedent for the country." Give arguments For and Against this view.

Ans. During the past 50 years or so the tribals of Bihar and some other adjoining areas have been carrying on an agitation for a separate State and special rights. The 24-member committee appointed to study the question, in its report released at the end of March 1992, recommended the formation of an autonomous General Council on the pattern of the Gorkha Hill Council, with wide-ranging legislative and executive powers, for the Jharkhand region of Bihar. The tribals of several other States, namely West Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh, also joined the agitation through their spokesmen. There has been some cases of violence also. It was feared that grave militancy might raise its head. Recently, the tribals formed a Jharkhand commando force to pursue their objective

Arguments For the View

1. The tribals' demand is not practical and has extensive implications. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha wants a tribal State consisting of 16 districts of Bihar, three districts of West Bengal, two of Madhya Pradesh and four of Orissa. This would mean that territories of three States other than Bihar would have to be separated from their parent entity. For understandable reasons, these States are opposed to the formation of a separate unit. They are not willing to allow certain areas to be taken out of their jurisdiction. The C.M.s did not participate in the conference convened by the Union Home Minister to discuss the issue.

2. Forming a new political entity by carving out territory from other States and putting these together to

fulfil the political aspirations of 1.3 crore tribals would have dangerous repercussions. Many other backward and neglected groups of people residing elsewhere would make similar demands for separate States, or some other kind of distinct entities. The process of disintegration would create endless complications and the efforts towards national integration would receive a major setback.

3. The basic factor is the continuing regional imbalance. Such economic and political imbalances are a direct cause of jealousies, discontentment, heart-burning and incitement for agitations. The economic blockade resorted to by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in March this year and similar other agitations would have led to disastrous consequences if the blockade had continued. Such blockades are launched if the demand of only one section or group is conceded. So it would be best not to set the ball rolling. The Bihar General Council model would become a prototype for replication in West Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh if the governments of these States favourably consider the demand for separate or autonomous entities. Besides creating political and administrative bottlenecks, the economic blockade would have jeopardised the functioning of thermal plants in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi because the coal supplies for these and other power stations come mostly from Bihar.

Arguments Against the View

1. The best way to check the demands for separate political and administrative entities is to tackle the root cause of discontent—administrative neglect, letting the people's genuine grievances pile up. Prompt redress and all-out attention to the complaints of the people, especially the tribals, are essential. Economic and cultural development of these backward areas should receive top priority.

2. The delay in looking into the grievances feeds the agitations; ambitious politicians exploit the feelings

of the frustrated people of the backward but resources-rich areas. Clearly, both bureaucrats and the politicians belonging to the opposition groups are to blame for the present state of affairs. The bureaucrats pay no attention to the grievances of the backward people, and the politicians stir up agitations in a bid to discredit the Government. The Adivasis continue to live in abject poverty; and petty politics cast a shadow over the region.

3. The Government is undeniably tardy in redressing public grievances and wakes up to the urgency of a complex situation only when the agitation threatens to turn violent and creates a law and order problem. The country has to pay heavily for the governmental delays. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha has threatened to resume its boycott movement unless its demand for a separate State is conceded in the next few weeks. At best the region must be made a Union Territory, according to the Movement's restless leaders.

4. Negotiations with the leaders of the various agitations should not be put off again and again. Delay in holding consultations and repeatedly adjourning the talks in the hope of the agitators climbing down merely feed the anti-government movements. Lack of tact and of foresight have been evident at every stage of the prolonged agitation.

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ECONOMIC SCENE

Private Sector Upgradation

Q. In the changing economic scenario, the possibilities of the public sector investment crowding out the private sector investment have now been reduced considerably. Elaborate.

Ans. Has the Nehruvian model of growth and development of the Indian economy been given a silent burial by the ruling Congress party itself? This provocative question is being debated both inside and outside the ruling party in the wake of the new policy package.

The proponents of the economic reforms assert that there is no break-away from Nehruvianism which destined the public sector to attain "commanding heights" at the same time as it co-exist with the private sector. The perception of the critics of the new policy regime is that liberalisation, de-regulation, de-control, de-licensing and market-friendly policies add up to anti-Nehru paradigm of planned development. In short, in their view the country has now an un-mixed private or capitalist economy and that the new policy package has sounded the death knell of mixed economy of Nehru's dreams.

The industrial policy resolution, 1956, defined the contours of each sector and provided that the operations of either of the two sectors must not undermine but supplement those of the other. Cooperation and not competition was to be the keynote of the sectoral activities.

It is a patent fact that the private sector in the early fifties (when Nehru's model was adopted for planned development) had neither the requisite capital resources nor the technology to initiate development after the dreams of Nehru. It was but proper then to invoke the help of the

State to play a dominant role, especially in building, what Nehru termed, the "temples of modern India". In the process, the public sector grew flabby over the years and came to be described as a "white elephant". The return on investment was very low compared to that from the private sector investments. Certain distortions have crept into the economy. The public sector has now ceased to be treated as a 'holy cow'. The emphasis is on improving its efficiency and rehabilitation of the sick units.

In line with the policy shifts, referred to above, the allocation of resources as between the public and the private sectors during the eighth five year plan period, 1992-97, has been tilted in favour of the latter. The smaller share of the public sector in the total plan outlay is a step in the same direction. The critics call it erosion of that sector.

Notably, the public sector will now play a supportive role and the possibilities of its crowding out the private sector has been reduced considerably. With the changed direction and thrusts of planning, conditions for the private sector resource mobilisation are favourable. The private sector would have better opportunities to have access to enlarged market due to rising effective demand including lucrative consumer and capital goods sectors. Given the new direction of the eighth plan and the macro-economic structural adjustment and stabilisation policies, the private sector would attract a larger chunk of savings.

Over the top of it, there has been about eight-fold increase in the small investors from 2 million to 15 million during the decade of eighties. The number is likely to rise more rapidly in the coming years.

The pattern of source sectors

(households, banking and financial institutions) and instruments (securities, bonds, shares) may also change. While the institutions and the instruments would have to compete, the public/private sector would, hopefully, not compete each other out. The open door policy in respect of the foreign direct investment and the non-resident Indians is aimed at easing the resource crunch in the economy.

To enable the private sector to play the assigned role certain policy changes will be needed. For instance, the interest rate review, liberalisation of pricing policies, adequate infrastructure, to mention a few.

In short, the public and the private sectors investments must be complementary. The shift in their respective roles is to make the public sector investment supportive rather than occupy the commanding heights. Suitable policy changes to attract more savings and improve efficiency would be needed. That is what the macro-economic adjustment and stabilisation policies seek to achieve.

De-fusing Demographic Bomb

Q. A pragmatic population policy requires a holistic and humane approach according primacy to women and children and not merely emphasising reduction in numbers. Amplify.

Ans. Almost all the economic and social problems facing India today are attributable to the rapid growth of population. When India attained freedom in 1947, its population was just only 341 million which increased to 690 million in 1981 and further to 844 million a decade later. At the turn of the century it is estimated to cross the 1000 million mark when the country would have the dubious distinction of topping the world in terms of population.

While the rhetoric to check the population growth has been incessant since Independence, the political leaders remain amazingly indifferent in reality. The result is that the problems like provision of the minimum needs of life—food, clothing and shelter—continue to haunt us. A new paradigm of the national population plan (if there is any) is, therefore, called for.

The eighth five year plan has targeted crude birth rate at 26 per 1000 population and crude death rate at 9.6 crude 1000 population. More than the reversal in the up-trend of population growth is the attitudinal change in favour of family planning by women at the tubectomy camps. This is a positive trend in fertility decline and needs to be strengthened. The family planning programmes must seek increased participation of the people, particularly women.

The ministry of health and family welfare which looks after population control has indicated two major strategies in the Action Plan for population control. The first strategy aims at area-specific approach and the second offers a package of incentives and disincentives.

The Planning Commission goes a step further and advocates micro-specific district and below-district planning mode. Its success would be contingent on the local planning mechanism and the inter-connection among the different variables with population. The second strategy lays emphasis on incentives and disincentives. Without going into the controversy about their merits/demerits, it may be stated that a paradigm shift in the population policy is called for. From the existing negative approach of population control to a positive one of optimum patterns and conditions for child-bearing and women's health and well-being. That is the strategy which would provide an answer to the question of burgeoning population.

For optimum patterns of child-bearing, we need to reduce the child-bearing risks, by ensuring correct child timing and adequate health-care in child-bearing and delivery. This, in turn, means improvement in

the social status of a woman and recognition of her right to choose when and how often to bear the trauma of child-bearing. To make it politically sustainable, the government will have to initiate a process for evolving a national consensus and a change of heart.

Deep in debt

Q. Write a short note on the Central government liabilities.

Ans. The financial scenario of the Central government has for the past few years been a matter of grave concern but never as much as it is today. It is a sad commentary on the way it has been (mis)managing its finances during the decade of eighties. The liabilities far exceed the assets of the government and have forced the recent draconian economic reforms.

The total liabilities increased from Rs 50,215 crore in 1979-80 to Rs 113,441 crore in 1984-85 and Rs 268,193 crore in 1989-90. The volume of debt rose by 125 per cent during the sixth five year plan, 1980-81 to 1984-85, and 95 per cent during the seventh five year plan, 1985-86 to 1989-90. As against this, the increase in assets has been far low: from Rs 52,484 crore to Rs 105,123 crore and Rs 209,623 crore in the corresponding years or 100 per cent and 69 per cent in the respective plan periods. The debt raising has, thus, outrun the asset-creation and the trend has continued in the current decade. The projection for the debt is Rs 395,338 crore for the current fiscal year and Rs 288,979 crore for the assets. The liabilities which would be left uncovered by assets in 1992-93 will be about 37 per cent while the proportion was just 8 per cent in 1984-85. The gap between the assets and liabilities of the Centre has blown up into an alarming dimension. To fill it up is a formidable challenge to which the present government has addressed itself and launched radical economic reforms. It is hoped that the economy will have a turn around as the reforms are successfully implemented.

It may be noted that of the total debt the internal debt constitutes a

big chunk while the external debt is only a thin slice. On the eve of the sixth plan, India owed only 19 paise to the foreigners out of every rupee taken as loan (public debt plus other liabilities) but it reduced to just 10.6 paise in the terminal year of the seventh plan. This decline should not however delude us into complacency. There is actually no relief from the debt as the curve continues scaling up. The external debt actually registered an increase from Rs 18,153 crore in 1985-86 to Rs 28,343 crore in 1989-90 and Rs 31,525 crore in 1990-91. It is estimated to go up further to Rs 39,565 crore on March 31, 1993.

The debt has become burdensome because of the increase in interest charges with the bunching of the debt repayments. Secondly, the excess of liabilities over assets has become endemic or the deficit between the two has become increasingly larger year after year.

The disconcerting predicament on the financial front is explained by the reckless consumption expenditure with loans. Instead of spending the borrowed money on projects which would generate capital, it was spent on unproductive purposes. This is strikingly evident from the fact that the excess of government liabilities over its assets has increased from a modest sum of Rs 8,018 crore in 1984-85 to Rs 92,694 crore in 1991-92—in a short span of just seven years.

How did this happen? The revenue deficit—excess of expenditure over the revenue receipts from taxes etc—which had leap-frogged from Rs 4,225 crore to Rs 17,081 crore during the aforesaid period was financed with surplus on capital account (that is loans). This fiscal policy proved suicidal as the deficit financing generated more demand for loans to pay off the past loans with interest.

Also, the Centre advances loans to the State governments. In 1991-92, they amounted to Rs 126,391 crore or 66 per cent of the total advances. These assets are of a dubious nature, given the poor repaying capacity of the State governments.

Descriptive Questions

The following are answers to the questions put in the Descriptive Paper set for the BSRB (Baroda) Clerical Grade examination held in November, 1991.

We thank Mr M. Veereswara Rao of Anulapuram (Andhra Pradesh) for sending us a copy of the question paper.

Q. 1. Some people feel that children above the age of 18 should not be financially supported. They should make their own earnings. Substantiate your view from your reading, experience, etc.

Ans. In my view, based on experience, study and exchange of views with my friends, the contention that parents should stop supporting their children when the latter reach the age of 18 is incorrect. There are several factors that have prompted me to express this view.

First and foremost, only a fraction of children who have crossed the age of 18 complete their education, and hence they are not qualified to earn their living. It is true that in many cases boys who have reached the age of 18 years take up minor jobs and are able to earn some money to supplement their parents' incomes. But the vast majority of them are still in college or in the "plus two" or senior secondary classes, whether in school or college. Our common experience is that youth get the B.A. or M.A./M.Sc degree, or they complete their vocational or professional training after reaching the age of 20 or 21. Only then do most youth start earning their livelihood.

Second, children above the age of 18 or so do have the right of voting in elections, but that does not make them economically independent. Except in rare cases when they join some business or enter the arena of technical education and training, they should not be asked to fend for themselves. Stoppage of support would virtually ruin their career. It is

the duty of parents to ensure sound physical and intellectual development of their children. The process is seldom complete at the age of 18.

Only children who are put in some business or placed in some industrial enterprise can become self-supporting and in a position to manage without financial support from their parents. Such cases are very few.

Moreover, a youth has to be imparted adequate training and instruction for running an enterprise entirely on his own. Partnerships often run into all sorts of difficulties, such as losses, setbacks, large-scale misappropriation of funds by unscrupulous persons associated with the business or industry. Petty jobs and temporary assignments will not solve the problem.

My view has been confirmed by the reports I have read in newspapers and magazines, especially those specialising in commerce, business and industry. While a few cases of youngsters of the age of 18 have made a success of their career, others have been facing difficulties of various kinds and had ultimately to sell off their business and take up petty employment somewhere. The argument that children above the age of 18 should not be financially supported by their parents is unsound, all the more in the case of girls, unless of course they are married off at an early age and become housewives.

Self-employment or Govt Service?

Q. 2. It is always better to be self-employed than working in some Government or private organisation.

Give two arguments for the view and two arguments against the view.

Ans. Self-employment has certain advantages and so has service in some government office or private

organisation. Much depends upon an individual's circumstances and also his or her personal inclinations. Actually, some kind of service and employment is far better than none at all. Unemployment often results in semi-starvation and worse.

Arguments in Favour of self-employment

1. Those who are self-employed can maintain their dignity and prestige. They do not have to depend upon anybody for making their living. Dependence upon others for economic survival is at times humiliating and develops a slavish mentality.

2. Self-employment not only creates a sense of independence but also provides the requisite incentive to work hard, enhance output and increase one's earnings. Generally, it is quite true that the more the work an individual puts in (other things being equal) the more the profits and other incidental gains. There is greater initiative for self-employed people than for those who are in service somewhere or other. That is why it is quite natural that self-employed persons who run their own business concern or industrial enterprise put in much longer hours at their places of work than those who are in service, especially government service. You are your own master; you come and go when you please; you are not at anyone's mercy. You are not bound by anyone, individual or organisation. The realisation that if, through neglect or inefficiency, you suffer losses and setbacks, you are yourself the sufferer makes all the difference between hard, consistent, regular work and an indifferent attitude.

Arguments Against the View

1. If one is in government service or is working for some private organisation, one has fixed hours of work and employment and one does

not have to be at the factory or the office most of the day (and sometimes even late in the evening). One's life is regular and schedule of work is fixed—and also easy.

2. Self-employment in business or enterprise generally requires plenty of investment, but in government service or some private organisation there is no need to invest money. All the infrastructure is provided by the Government or by the owners of the organisation which employs persons. Again, one does not have to worry about losses and setbacks nor about marketing of the produced goods and articles. All the risks are borne by the employer.

3. The service sector is beneficial from many other points of view. One gets a regular salary and other benefits such as security of service, many holidays, pension and provident fund, besides free medical aid up to certain limits. In fact, people generally hanker after government service. Even parents of girls of marriageable age look for youth in government service because of the security it provides and the other benefits that accrue from it.

Teachers for Rural Schools

Q. 3. It is difficult to get good teachers remain in rural schools.

Give three reasons for this situation.

Ans. Ever since the Government launched schemes to establish thousands of schools in rural areas to promote education among the villagers, it has been finding it difficult to get good teachers in adequate number for these schools. Very often those who are recruited for these institutions on assurances of attractive salaries do not remain in their posts for long. The result is that the mass literacy drive has received a setback. Among the reasons why it is not easy to get good teachers for village schools are the following:

1. Even after the improvement in grades and allowances, the emoluments offered to the teachers are not attractive enough. No wonder good and qualified teachers prefer to serve in urban areas where the working conditions are far better in every way.

2. Since the educational and medical facilities in the rural areas are poor, the qualified teachers keep their families in urban areas and have to live in villages without their children. The teachers have to maintain two establishments, one in a city or town where their children can receive good education on the desired lines and the other in villages where the (medical, engineering courses, for instance) teachers are posted. This arrangement also becomes necessary to ensure timely and adequate medical facilities for the family in case of illness. It has been found that a child or an elder belonging to the teacher's family has to be rushed to an urban centre for urgent medical aid because the village dispensary or health centre does not provide adequate medical facilities.

3. The teachers do not have good company in the rural areas. The villages have no clubs or community centres, etc. So the teachers get bored at the rural centres where they are asked to work. There are no means of entertainment, no cinemas, theatres, etc.

4. The sanitation in the rural areas is very poor. There are stinking ponds, flies and mosquitoes, dirty lanes, poor transport facilities, unclean latrines. All in all, the educated people find the conditions intolerable. The recent improvements in the living conditions have merely touched the fringe of the problem and have made no impact on well-educated teachers of a high calibre.

Fixed, Not Movable

Q. 4. Suppose all people suddenly get fixed and are not able to move. Explain the consequences of that situation.

Ans. If everyone suddenly gets fixed and is unable to move, a truly absurd and untenable situation would result. In fact some of the consequences would be difficult to imagine. No physical movement of any kind would be possible. A person sitting on a chair, a woman working in a kitchen or eating her breakfast, a teacher writing a sum on the blackboard, an athlete practising high jump or a tennis or cricket player would all get virtually frozen in his or

her physical action.

We would be confronted with a stone-like scenario, immobility everywhere, with human beings virtually turned into stones or permanent fixtures. Only birds and animals would be moving about; human activity would come to a stop. For all practical purposes, the world would come to a dead end.

With only "statues" all around, life would not be worth living. Human beings would be alive and conscious but it would be life only in name since no one would be able to move his or her limbs, eyes, head or any other part of the body. Sitting in the same posture or lying in the same position in bed, a student holding a book; or a hospital surgeon operating on a patient lying on a table would all get hopelessly fixed—it would be a pathetic, highly dangerous scene. People would die of thirst and hunger because they would not be able to eat anything or drink water.

Everyone would merely stare at things and persons around him or her. No change of clothes would be possible; no visits to the bath-room not to speak of the dining-room for food. All traffic would come to a dead stop on the roads. Running taps in homes would remain open until the water supply is finished. The food being cooked on the gas burner would get burnt because no one would be able to get up and turn off the supply switch. Things in the kitchen and in the factory, wherever there is a fire burning or electricity on, would get burnt and reduced to ashes.

The tragic situation would get worse with the passage of time because, according to the logical sequence, even human lips would not be moving; so no one would be able to talk with others or make any gesture indicate one's requirements. Human mouths would remain permanently fixed in one position. All forms of education and sporting activity would also come to a stop.

It would all be a tragedy beyond words—virtual death.

Notes on Current Affairs

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

♦ INDIA'S POLICY EXPOSITION ♦ INDIA'S STAND ON NUCLEAR ISSUE ♦ ROCKET TECHNOLOGY CONTROVERSY ♦ CMS AGREE ON ECONOMIC CRITERION ♦ PM DENIES ROLE IN BOFORS ISSUE ♦ LEFT PLAN FOR JOINT STRUGGLE ♦ CALL FOR ENVIRONMENT TAX ♦ PAK ARMY AIDING J-K MILITANTS ♦ ELECTORAL REFORMS ON THE ANVIL ♦ U.S. OFFENSIVE AGAINST INDIA ♦ PAK PRESSURE ON ULFA ♦ CONSTITUTION BILLS ADOPTED ♦ NEW TAX CONCESSIONS ♦

India's Policy Exposition

IN his presidential address to the 179th plenary session of the Indian National Congress at Tirupati on April 16, Mr Narasimha Rao gave a fresh call to the country, especially Congressmen. He called upon them to help strengthen the panchayati raj system so that decentralisation of power can be done to the grassroot level. "Suraaj along with Swaraj" is the call of the Tirupati plenary session, according to Mr Narasimha Rao.

Emphasising the Tirupati Congress message, which means "good governance with self-government", Mr Rao felt that if the functioning mechanism of the State was fragmented into smaller democratic units, the State was less likely to develop the power and privileges of a monolith. The ultimate guarantee for democracy was more democracy and more direct democracy. However, direct democracy was possible only when the unit was small. It would be necessary to strengthen the panchayats. The same was true in the case of village Congress committees which would have to be revitalised.

Making a strong plea for self-reliance, Mr Rao explained the concept of self-reliance as not whether a country could have whatever it needed but whether it could pay for whatever it needed. He tried to dispel the fear that his Government was trying to give up the vision of Jawaharlal Nehru in the matter of

economic policies.

About the public sector, he said remedial measures were being taken to make it more efficient. The Government was not against the public sector. "It is merely re-defining the role of the public sector. The public sector stands as a symbol of the country's self-reliance." The Government had invested over one lakh crores of rupees in the public sector so far, and the returns had been very meagre, even negative in several cases. The Government could no longer collect more money from the people for further investment in the public sector. But if there was no further investment, the country could not progress.

Terrorism hits ties with Pak: Indo-Pakistan relations had deteriorated because of Pakistan's continuing involvement in stoking terrorism in this country and pursuing the path of nuclear weaponry, the AICC resolution on international affairs stated.

The resolution stressed that India's efforts to bring Pakistan round to the path of peace and mutually beneficial cooperation must, however, continue. The Congress reposed faith in the people of Pakistan because of shared history, culture and cherished values of democracy and hoped that they would contribute to the emergence of a new era of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Nuclear weapons were no longer necessary with the elimination of ad-

versary relations between the major powers. However, the powers who possessed them today advocated an order in which such weapons continued to exist, but only in their hands. Such discrimination was incompatible with India's vision of a nuclear-weapons-free world order, the resolution said.

The Action Plan for a nuclear-weapons free and non-violent world order, which Mr Rajiv Gandhi submitted to the U.N. in 1988, was the essence of the Congress vision of a new world order. It was essential that the new world order be based on a true democracy of nations, with no pressure on anyone. The Congress noted that the changes in the world had called into question some basic ideas like non-alignment. India had always pursued a policy of essential autonomy in decision making in its external relations and would continue to do so.

Pak pursuing N-arms policy:

The Congress has accused Pakistan of abetting terrorism in India and pursuing the path of nuclear weaponry. The Congress regretted that the new spirit in India-Pakistan relations, infused by the efforts of Rajiv Gandhi, had diminished because of Pakistan's involvement in the promotion of terrorism in India and its nuclear arms policy. The resolution sought to repose faith of the Congress in the people of Pakistan "who share a wealth of history and culture with us and cherish the values of democracy".

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, said "The crux of the problem remains Pakistan's continued support to terrorism and subversion directed against Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. Assurances conveyed by Pakistan in this regard remain to be

translated on the ground. Pakistan has also been attempting to internationalise the Kashmir issue and in this effort has misrepresented and distorted the situation in the valley through false propaganda.

Pakistani attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue are in total violation of its commitment under the Simla agreement. These efforts only serve to complicate the situation further. India would once again like to urge the Government of Pakistan to refrain from action that undermined the process of a bilateral dialogue and to join India in its efforts to establish good neighbourly relations.

The resolution endorsed the decision of the Indian Government to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel as it would facilitate India's important role in the peace process. It welcomes the initiatives taken by the Indian Government to forge close bilateral relations with the newly independent Central Asian republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union. It emphasised the need for continuing the efforts to improve relations with China and welcomed the substantial improvement in relations with Nepal since the advent of democracy in that country. The recent developments throughout the continent of Asia suggested the resurgence of an Asian spirit and identity which could be a vital factor in international affairs.

India's stand on Nuclear issue

INDIA has reiterated that the only realistic solution to the nuclear proliferation is to have a global approach to the problem—an approach which is universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory.

Regional arrangements, bilateral agreements, nuclear weapons free zones and other technical fixes which have become popular during the last two decades, have failed to check the number of nuclear weapons from growing qualitatively and quantitatively, the Indian representative, Mr

P. Shah, told the United Nations Disarmament Commission towards the end of April. Nor have they succeeded in preventing an increase in the number of countries with divided control over nuclear arsenals.

Welcoming the announcement by the US and Russia to cut certain categories of nuclear weapons, the spokesman urged other nuclear-weapons States to take matching positive steps. The reduction should be a stage in total elimination of nuclear weapons so necessary to establish a new world order commensurate with fresh thinking emerging from the changing world scenario.

It is India's conviction that fissile material from the decommissioned warheads needs to be placed under international safeguards for use exclusively for peaceful purposes. Stressing the need to move away from the conceptual framework of managing the arms race to removing the source of danger through elimination, the Indian spokesman commended the Indian Action Plan put forward at the 1988 special session on disarmament for elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in stages, in a systematic rational and practical time-frame. It aims to achieve in relation to nuclear weapons what has already been initiated in the field of chemical and biological weapons. The Plan calls upon all nuclear States to accept equal obligations without discrimination and provides for a stage-by-stage achievement of a nuclear weapon-free world.

Rocket Technology Controversy

THE U.S.A. has been exerting pressure on Russia not to supply rocket technology to India, although the Russian republic is a party to a contract for such supply. However, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, asserted in the Lok Sabha that the contract with Russia for the transfer of rocket technology to this country has "not been suspended nor cancelled so far". The U.S. had sought a

"pause" for want of further technical discussions with India on the subject.

Dr V.R. Rao, Secretary in the Department of Space, visited Moscow for discussions on this subject. He disclosed that the Russians perhaps wanted to discuss the technical safety of the programme, the engine transaction and also to be assured about the technical capability in this country. The reports received from the Space Secretary did not refer to any insurmountable difficulties or that India might have to call off the contract. He hoped that the matter would fructify.

This technology did not entail any military application. India would like to continue such cooperation for mutual benefit. At the same time the alternative was to develop the technologies indigenously, though this might entail a longer time-frame and in some cases a higher cost. "Sometimes the temporary difficulties that we encounter in acquiring technologies from abroad become a boon and give the additional urge to develop our own."

It is believed that India's success in space technology, especially in development of offensive missile systems, may have prompted the U.S. to apply pressure on Russia to cancel its agreement with India on transfer of rocket technology. Russia, however, has declared that it will not bow to pressure and will fulfil its commitments to India.

CMs agree on economic criterion

PRIME Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao called upon the Chief Ministers, Governors and Lt-Governors to evolve an economic criterion for reservation of government jobs for members of the poor and other economically backward sections of society not covered by any of the existing schemes of reservation. The economic criterion needs to be determined with utmost caution and care, taking into account all relevant factors. The reservation policy, as announced on September 25, 1991, was

sub judice before a nine-member Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court and the hearing was at an advanced stage.

One of the issues to be adjudicated upon by the Supreme Court related to the application of an economic criterion to the reservation policy for backward classes. The Government had communicated to the court that it intended to determine an economic criterion after evolving, if possible, a national consensus.

The economic criterion should be determined in such a manner that the most deserving sections of the backward classes were not left out and at the same time, it did not leave the doors too wide open to enable affluent sections of the target groups to grab the jobs. The Rao Government had embarked upon a programme of economic reform of unprecedented dimensions. In its eagerness for economic reforms and liberalisation, the Government had not been oblivious of the needs of the underprivileged sections of society. The Government is keen to ensure that the benefit of reservation in the services went to the poorer sections amongst the socially and educationally backward classes.

Most of the States favoured Rs 22,000 as a reasonable limit for the economic criterion for providing reservation in government jobs for socially and educationally weaker sections. Only two States, Tamil Nadu and Bihar, opposed the suggestion. The Punjab Chief Minister suggested that the annual income of Rs 22,000 should be taken as a gross income ceiling for the purpose of eligibility for reservation in the case of socially and economically backward classes.

The Haryana Chief Minister suggested that since the poverty line with effect from April 1 this year had been fixed at Rs 11,000 per family per annum, the ceiling in the case of socially and educationally backward classes and other economically

weaker sections be fixed at Rs 22,000.

Quota for Handicapped: Three per cent of civil vacancies have been reserved for physically handicapped in Group C and D civil posts under the Central Government, the Lok Sabha was informed on April 23. This includes one per cent each for visually, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped. The Government carried out a special recruitment drive in this regard during 1987, 1988 and 1990. Placement of the handicapped persons in gainful employment is done through employment exchanges, special employment exchanges and special cells in normal employment exchanges and vocational rehabilitation centres for the physically handicapped.

PM denies role in Bofors issue

PRIME Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao asserted in the Lok Sabha on April 23 that he had nothing whatsoever to do with the note handed over by the former External Affairs Minister, Mr Madhavsinh Solanki, to his Swiss counterpart, Mr Rene Felber. "I neither had knowledge of the note nor did I authorise its handing over to the Swiss Foreign Minister", he added.

The opposition had stalled the proceedings of the House for several hours by charging the Government with complicity in the newspaper report which referred to a sequence of events that allegedly took place during Mr Solanki's visit to Switzerland in February. "I wish to make it clear that there has been no communication from the Swiss Government making any reference to any note. The reference in the newspaper report to a communication from Switzerland to the CBI dated March 23 is in fact a reference to a message from CBI's lawyer in Switzerland. CBI promptly replied to Mr Bonnant on March 26 and denied any knowledge of the alleged memorandum. CBI reiterated that the Swiss authorities should pursue the inquiries without taking cognisance of

the said memorandum. It will, therefore, be seen that the letter of March 23 was from counsel to client and the client had promptly repudiated the alleged memorandum."

According to the CPI leader, Mr Indrajit Gupta, it was puzzling that the Government, which claimed to pursue the Bofors investigation case with diligence, had failed so far to establish the identity of the lawyer who had handed over the crucial note to Mr Solanki shortly before his meeting with the Swiss Foreign Minister. The lawyer could not have disappeared into the thin air. Such instances continued to raise clouds of suspicion over the Government's sincerity in unravelling the mystery.

Leader of the Opposition, L.K. Advani, felt there was a lobby within the Congress which wanted to abort the investigation in the Bofors issue and what Mr Solanki did was in furtherance of this lobby's intentions. Unless the government came clear on all aspects of the Solanki episode, people would remain dissatisfied, he stated.

Left plan for joint struggle

THE Left parties intend to play a consistent role by consolidating their unity further to resist what they call the "twin dangers of communalism and economic policies being pursued by the Centre". The resolutions adopted by the 15th CPI congress, which concluded at Hyderabad in April, fully endorsed the view of the 14th CPM congress on issues like communalism, economic policies and broader Left unity.

The CPI has reaffirmed its position, saying the Left parties in the country have been real champions of the peasantry, working class and the down-trodden. The CPI also favoured a positive attitude to Naxalite groups who are ready to cooperate with the Left mainstream, while continuing to oppose their ideological political positions.

The CPM General Secretary has claimed that the building of Left unity has made steady progress in

the past one decade which needs to be enhanced by more independent projection of Left policies and alternatives and more joint campaign and struggles. The position taken by the CPI is "a welcome sign towards achieving the desired objective in the area of Left unity".

For the first time since its formation in 1968, the CPI (M-L) Liberation Group, which has so long been functioning as an underground party, held a public meeting in Calcutta on April 23. The objective of the meeting was to unite the people against the "right reactionary policies" of the Congress and the BJP on the one hand and the deviations of the CPM from Marxism on the other.

The day witnessed again the division within the ranks of the Naxalites. While the CPI (M-L) Liberation Group held its rally at one place, the CPI (M-L) People's War Group, the Maoist Communist Centre and the CPI (M-L) Party Unity group held another rally on an adjacent Maidan under the banner of the All-India People's Resistance Forum (AIPRF).

Call for environment tax

A UN-sponsored international conference on environment and development concluded in Tokyo in the third week of April, calling for introduction of an environment tax to raise funds for projects to protect global environment. The conference also suggested reductions in military spending and abolition of tax privileges in order to help raise funds for environment.

However, the Japanese Finance Minister indicated that more study was necessary to collect scientific data in order to attain a national consensus in Japan in favour of an environment tax.

The conference was attended by some 30 eminent persons from around the world and presided over by the former Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Noboru Takeshita, an adviser to the Earth Summit to be held in Brazil in June.

The Tokyo conference laid down three basic environmental ethics—harmonisation of human activities with the order of nature that governs the eco-system, strengthening of collaboration between human beings and their environment, and sharing of the environmental space by all nations.

Mr Takeshita felt he was convinced Japan would have to take up environmental leadership of the world since other powers were busy with less important political issues, adding it would make his country an environmentally oriented nation.

As for finances for the save environment projects—the key issue before the Earth Summit in June at Rio De Janeiro—the Tokyo conference statement said the UN estimate of \$ 125 billion in aid to developing countries in the coming decades to cope with the environmental problems was a small sum compared to defence spending. Poverty and trade issues were causing environmental destruction.

Pak army aiding J-K militants

UNION Home Minister S.B. Chavan has accused Pakistan of aiding and abetting subversive and terrorist activities in Kashmir and has contended that "even the Pakistani army is involved in training some of our misguided youth at camps set up in the Pak-occupied Kashmir (PoK)". India wants friendly relations with Pakistan and "we have no territorial designs on our neighbouring countries". But Pakistan's involvement in subversion and militancy in Kashmir has created problems for us and adversely affected the pace of development of the national mainstream.

Mr Chavan urged Kashmiri youth to see through the ugly designs of Pakistan and desist from falling prey to their machinations. Those who are misguiding them and driving them to the path of militancy, were their real enemies as this path would only lead to disaster.

The Union Home Minister assured that Article 370 of the Constitution guaranteeing special status to the people of J and K would be retained. "It is a Constitutional commitment to the people of the State and we will continue to honour it", Mr Chavan said. The Government was keen to start the political process in J and K so that it could lead to the setting up of a popular government in the State. Mr Chavan paid tributes to the people of Rājouri for maintaining communal harmony in the border district despite provocations by the anti-national and anti-social elements from time to time.

The Governor, Mr Girish Chander Saxena, reiterated the Government's commitment to uphold democratic values and human rights in the State as part of civilised society. Despite provocations by foreign-aided and abetted militants, security forces have been observing great restraint in the Valley and avoiding use of force as far as possible.

Electoral Reforms on the Anvil

THE Government has undertaken an in-depth study of wide-ranging electoral reforms proposed by the Election Commission, which include the suggestion to make booth capturing a cognisable offence, reduction of campaign period from 20 to 14 days, annual auditing of political party funds and disqualification of candidates found violating the model code of conduct.

The Government will be holding a meeting with leaders of political parties in Parliament before finalising its decision on the recommendations of the Election Commission. In a bid to curtail frivolous candidature, the Commission has suggested increase in the security deposit for all candidates and a minimum of 10 proposers for every candidate drawn from different polling areas. One of the important recommendations is an amendment to Section 29-A of the Representation of People Act, 1951,

relating to registration of political parties.

The Commission wants a special provision for de-registration of a political party for violating its oath on the Constitution and its secular character. It has, however, suggested that the power to de-register a party should vest with the High Courts. The Commission has suggested that the campaign period be reduced from 20 to 14 days in a bid to bring down election expenses and the administrative costs of maintenance of law and order.

To counter booth capturing, the Commission has suggested that top-rank political leaders who harbour proclaimed offenders and were seen openly in their company should be proceeded with under the law. The Election Commission should also be empowered to countermand an election due to booth capturing even otherwise than on the report of the returning officer. The Commission has suggested that every registered political party should publish its accounts annually and these should be audited by specified agencies.

Non-maintenance of the true account of election expenses or not filing of its true copy within the prescribed time and manner should be punishable with imprisonment and fine; on conviction the candidate should be disqualified for a period of six years.

To give statutory teeth to the model code of conduct, the Commission has suggested that its violation should result in the election of the candidate in whose favour or with whose consent or connivance, the violation was caused, being declared void and that the candidate should be disqualified for a period of six years. The Commission has also suggested a series of measures to strengthen and make its functioning more independent of the Government.

The Commission has suggested issue of multi-purpose identity cards to all Indian citizens.

U.S. Offensive against India

INDIA has lodged a strong protest against the Bush Administration's action in suspending duty-free treatment on the export of its pharmaceuticals and chemicals in retaliation for New Delhi's alleged failure to protect US intellectual property rights. President George Bush issued the proclamation to this effect on April 29. Indian Ambassador Abid Hussain called on US Trade Representative Carla Hills to put on record his Government's disappointment at the American trade sanction. The action was "unjust and untimely".

Earlier, the U.S. identified India for the second year in succession, along with Thailand and Taiwan, under its trade law provision "Special 301" as a trading partner that denied market access and protection for US intellectual property rights, such as patents, trade marks and copyright.

In the Lok Sabha members suggested that the House should pass a unanimous resolution taking exception to the arm-twisting methods of the USA. Cutting across party lines, the M.P.s decried the US action and demanded cancellation of the proposed joint naval exercises with the USA and convening of a meeting of NAM of countries of the South to take a united stand and tell Washington to stop its dominating attitude. India is determined not to yield to any pressure.

In the Rajya Sabha some members cautioned that the proposed U.S. step would be a severe economic blow to India. U.S. bullying tactics were becoming bolder every day.

The most telling impact of the U.S. move would be on chemicals and pharmaceuticals, India's best export item. Obviously the action has been taken under the pressure of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of the USA whose members have been clamouring that they are losing \$ 400 million in revenue every

year because of inadequate patent protection.

The Government of India intends to take firm action against the USA in this matter. Some M.P.s feel that the country is faced with a serious crisis as a Super Power had sought to make an unabashed assault on its exports, indeed on its "economic sovereignty". The crisis gave India an opportunity to pass the litmus test that it was a non-aligned nation and not a "vassal State of the U.S.A.", one M.P. contended.

Pak Pressure on ULFA

AFTER J & K and Punjab it is now Assam that has become a victim of interference by Pakistan. Union Home Minister S.B. Chavan revealed on April 29 that his ministry had definite information that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) was pressurising the ULFA leaders hiding in Bangladesh not to enter into a settlement with the Centre.

Pakistan and Bangladesh have been encouraging extremist activities in Assam. The Indian Government had told Bangladesh and Pakistan governments that interference in India's internal affairs would not be tolerated.

However, he ruled out the possibility of taking up the matter with the U.N., stating it should be dealt with at the bilateral level. This issue was discussed by the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh and the two had agreed on the need to stop these activities. However, this was not reflected at the ground level.

The Army had been deployed in a big way in Assam but "Operation Bajrang" and "Operation Rhino" were suspended when negotiations with the ULFA leaders were under way. Unfortunately the Army operations had to be resumed when talks broke down. A final settlement is still not in sight. According to the Home Minister, at least 75 per cent of ULFA activists had either surrendered or had been captured but the militant section continues to elude the security forces. Complete peace in the

region will not be possible till this section surrenders. Negotiations with ULFA are still on.

Constitution Bills adopted

THE Constitution (71st amendment) Bill to facilitate fresh delimitation of constituencies was adopted by the Rajya Sabha on April 29 after the Government's declaration that it had accepted the long-standing demand for rotation of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes.

The House also adopted the Constitution (76th Amendment) Bill seeking to include Assembly members of the Union Territories of Delhi and Pondicherry in the electoral college for the election of the President. Both the Bills received support from all sections of the House and were passed unanimously.

Replying to the brief debate on the 71st Amendment Bill, the Law Minister assured the members that a Delimitation Commission would be set up soon. It would be headed by a sitting or a former Supreme Court Judge. The other members would be coopted by Parliament and Legislative Assemblies.

The Government had accepted the recommendation of the Committee that went into electoral reforms about a fresh delimitation of the Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies on the basis of the 1981 census.

The committee had also recommended that the seats reserved for Scheduled Castes be rotated on the basis of their population in the constituencies. This recommendation had also been accepted by the Government. The constituencies reserved for the Scheduled Tribes, however, would not be rotated. The number of reserved seats for the Scheduled Castes, too, would remain the same. Any increase in this could be considered only after 2000 A.D.

New Tax Concessions

THE tax concessions withdrawn by the Union Finance Minister in the 1992-93 budget were partially restored on April 30. Dr Manmohan

Singh announced several direct and indirect tax concessions, including restoration of Section 80-L with a monetary ceiling of Rs 7,000; a rise of Rs 10,000 in investment ceiling under Section 88, further expansion of the simplified procedure for taxation to cover small shopkeepers in vocations and a 50 per cent reduction in the new rate of import duty on gold.

Moving the Finance Bill, 1992, in the Lok Sabha, Dr Singh said the changes he proposed in direct and indirect taxes would result in a net revenue loss of Rs 602 crore. Of this, the loss to the Centre would be to the tune of Rs 331 crore and to the States, Rs 271 crore. The revenue loss to the Centre includes the import duty reliefs totalling Rs 245 crore, announced on March 26.

On February 29 Dr Singh had announced withdrawal of income tax

concessions under Section 80-L, 80-CCA and 80-CCB of the Income Tax Act. While he proposed to restore Section 80-L he has brought down the monetary ceiling from the earlier Rs 13,000 (including Rs 3,000 exclusively from UTI) to Rs 7,000.

The Finance Minister justified the reduction in the monetary ceiling on the ground that he had raised the income tax exemption limit by Rs 6,000.

In his budget speech, he had announced withdrawal of deductions under Section 80-CCA in respect of National Savings Scheme and under Section 80-CCB in respect of Equity Linked Savings Scheme. Without restoring the two Sections, the Finance Minister proposed enlargement of the ceiling on investment level by Rs 10,000 to Rs 60,000 under Section 88.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

◆ *REBELS SEIZE POWER IN AFGHANISTAN* ◆ *RUSSIAN FEDERATION FORMED* ◆ *SANCTIONS AGAINST LIBYA* ◆ *PLEA TO CUT DEFENCE BUDGETS* ◆ *AID NOT LINKED TO POVERTY* ◆ *KOIRALA: COMMUNISTS DISRUPTING PEACE* ◆ *DECLARATION TO SAVE EARTH* ◆

Rebels seize power in Afghanistan

MUJAHIDEEN rebels have seized power in Afghanistan, the new President (provisional) being Prof Sibghatullah Mojadidi. He formed an interim Governing council. Former President Najibullah and others have been granted amnesty. Pakistan, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia and some other countries have already recognised the new rulers in Kabul.

Radical fundamentalist leader Hekmatyar is not in a position to pose a serious threat to Afghanistan's new Islamic transitional Government, interim President Mojadidi declared on May 1.

Gunfire and shelling were heard in the city as Mojadidi spoke. He intended to pursue the question of participation by Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami faction in the interim

Council. The heavy fighting in Kabul between rival guerrillas was blamed on back of discipline.

Mr Mojadidi is to govern for two months, then hand over power for four months to Mr Burhanuddin Rabbani, political leader of Masood's Jamiat-e-Islami party. A council is then to choose an interim government to oversee elections, expected within two years.

Islamic Govt: Afghanistan's new Government has begun to flex its Islamic muscles and is talking tough about hitting back at armed opposition from dissident rebels. The strongly-Islamic Mujahideen Government plans to turn the country back towards traditional Muslim values and to introduce strict Islamic laws.

President Mojadidi clarified that women government workers, long used to wearing make-up and

western dress in public, should switch to form-concealing baggy trousers, tunic and headscarf. "They should come to work in Islamic dress", he said.

India recognises Afghan Govt: India officially acknowledged on April 30 the Mujahideen Council as the interim government of Afghanistan. India looks forward to a continuous, constructive and fruitful dialogue with the new authorities in Kabul. The Indian ambassador in Kabul had been received by President, Mojadidi and India saw the prospects of peace and restoration of normalcy in Afghanistan. He expressed the hope that the authorities in Kabul would reflect the aspirations of the different segments of the Afghan society and opinion.

"We have always stood for a sovereign, independent, non-aligned and united Afghanistan, and remain firm in this commitment", Mr Eduardo Faleiro, Indian Minister of State said. Meanwhile, the acting ambassador of Afghanistan in India, Mr Ziauddin Nassery, sought India's help in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of his country. Mr Nassery said 1.5 million Afghans had lost their lives, 2.5 million injured or handicapped while five million had sought refuge in other countries.

The new ruling Council had declared a cease-fire and amnesty but a few rebels were refusing to accept the new government.

It is felt that India should help the UN in its activities in Afghanistan and strengthen the UN Secretary-General's efforts for peace in that country. India regards Dr Najibullah, former President of Afghanistan, as a friend and is willing to give him political asylum, Union Home Minister S.B. Chavan stated. The assessment in North Block is that he would not like to be seen fleeing from his own country and would seek an honourable exit. This process could take some time in view of the turbulent situation in Afghanistan. The family members of Dr Najibullah are already in New Delhi.

India is interested in ensuring that no harm befalls Dr Najibullah. It has requested the U.N. to use its good offices for this purpose. This move has been made in the context of the recent visit to India (and later to Pakistan) by the UN Secretary-General, Mr Boutros Ghali. There are apparently fears about the safety of Dr Najibullah in the new dispensation in Kabul.

The visit of the Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif, to Kabul on the heels of those who had captured power there spoke eloquently of Pakistan's interest in boosting fundamentalist forces to the detriment of the moderate elements.

Russian Federation Formed

AT long last, the Russian parliament confirmed the plan to constitute a federation through a treaty. The treaty gives wide autonomy to constituent republics to prevent a Soviet-style break-up. The treaty, defining the powers of the federal government and the constituent republics, has been signed by 18 of the 20 autonomous republics within Russia. President Boris Yeltsin said the treaty was a guarantee against Russia going the Soviet Union way. It would probably keep Russia united and strong and prevent disintegration. Discussions were on with Tatarstan and Chechen republics and Mr Yeltsin was hopeful they would sign the treaty. Both the republics are demanding separate bilateral treaties with Russia to define their status and the powers they would enjoy. The treaty was approved by 848 votes to 10 with 40 abstentions.

Mr Yeltsin earlier rejected his opponents' call to step down as Prime Minister and appealed to the full Russian parliament to allow him to hold the post for at least another three months. In a highly conciliatory speech, Mr Yeltsin told the Congress of People's Deputies that he was not seeking further powers but needed to combine the posts to ensure that the reforms were irreversible and there

was no return to the old system.

His intervention came after a commission of the congress suggested a draft resolution seeking effectively to forbid him from holding the two posts and to strip him of powers to appoint ministers without parliament's approval. Rejecting the draft, Mr Yeltsin said the demand that he submit proposals within a month on restructuring the ministry was not reasonable. He needed time at least till October 1 to do so.

Sensing that the alignment of forces in the congress was such that he could not win, Mr Yeltsin adopted a conciliatory tone and told the House that he was not making any ultimatum-like statement. Both he and the deputies had been elected by the people and "we must work as friends". Mr Yeltsin was granted emergency powers by the previous session of the congress. These include powers to rule by decree and appoint ministers without parliament's approval.

Limited presidency: The full-scale Russian parliament voted on April 18 for a new Russian constitution, restraining the President from dissolving the House. It approved a text providing for a presidency which its author says would be akin to the U.S. model but threw out drafts which would have increased presidential powers.

The congress approved by 664 votes—29 more than the two-thirds required—the first point of a resolution which "adopts the overall conception of constitutional reform and the principles of the constitutional draft approved by the Russian parliament", the Supreme Soviet.

The draft is known as the "Rumiantsev draft" after its main author, Mr Oleg Rumiantsev, who headed a parliamentary committee for the purpose during the past 18 months. It has 140 Articles and 24 chapters and has already been amended once by the Supreme Soviet. The draft for a presidential system is more akin to the US model

than a parliamentary regime. The first article entitled "The Sovereignty of the State" stipulated that Russia is a sovereign, democratic, social and federal State based on the rule of law.

Sanctions Against Libya

THE U.N.-mandated sanctions against Libya went into effect on April 15, cutting off Tripoli's air links with the rest of the world. A last-minute bid by non-aligned nations and the Arab League to get the sanctions postponed failed as they gave up in the face of stiff resistance by the sponsors, the USA, Britain and France.

The sanctions also put an arms embargo and asked States to cut down on Libyan diplomatic staff. But the 15-member Security Council did not impose an oil embargo. Oil forms the major part of Libya's trade. Tripoli's main West European importers, Germany, Italy and Spain, said they could not immediately change their suppliers. Some European countries depend heavily on Libyan oil. The Arab nations moved to set up alternative land travel routes for Libyans wishing to travel which, according to western diplomats, violated the spirit but not the letter of the sanctions.

The sanctions were imposed for Libya's refusal to hand over to the USA or Britain for trial two of its nationals suspected of involvement in the blowing up of a Pan Am plane in December, 1988, killing 271 persons.

The international sanctions against Libya mark another milestone in the U.N. effort to go beyond words and take strong action to bring wayward States into line. But the world community has not been united in tackling Libya, and the sanctions may have little more than symbolic effect.

Getting tough with Libya through the Security Council was possible because of the new world order that took shape after the Cold War. The Council was paralysed for decades by vetoes of the Soviet Union or United States. Tough action

against Libya would have been unthinkable just few years ago, when the Soviet Union was a big friend of Libya and would have blocked any such penalties.

The penalties are far less sweeping than the sanctions imposed against Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990. All trade, except in food and emergency supplies, was banned and Iraq was required to neutralise its weapons of mass destruction.

Some military experts think an arms embargo will not hurt Libya for some considerable time, mainly because the Libyans are one of the more overarmed countries in West Asia. The biggest supporters of sanctions against Libya are the United States and Britain.

Bid to Resolve U.S.-Libya Tangle: The United States, maintaining that it wants to resolve the conflict with Libya, has indicated that the two Libyans suspected in the Lockerbie bombing would receive due process under US law if handed over for trial. The concerned Libyan lawyer has stated that his clients would be prepared to stand trial in a foreign country, including Scotland or the US, if they could be guaranteed fair trials.

In an indication that Washington would like the current impasse to be brought to an end, the State Department disclosed that we would like to resolve this situation and we would welcome serious steps on the part of Libya.

Meanwhile, the PLO leader, Mr Yasser Arafat, in a show of solidarity with the Libyan leader, Col Muammar Gaddafi, in defying the West over the Lockerbie affair, declared: "I must stand beside Libya and my brother Gaddafi", Mr Arafat told reporters on his arrival from Tunisia. He urged Arabs to help Libya overcome United Nations sanctions imposed on Tripoli. Meanwhile, in Libya U.N. sanctions were felt as little more than an inconvenience, though the Government continued to lam-

bast the West. "The crusaders think they can humiliate these people, the Libyan people, but they are mistaken", an unidentified Muslim preacher said.

Plea to cut defence budgets

THE International Monetary Fund, in its updated World Economic Outlook, has renewed its plea for reduction in military expenditure in order to increase resources for development and raise living standards. It says: "In the context of adjustment programmes, military expenditure can have an important bearing on public finances as well as on the balance of payments."

A number of studies have shown that in countries in which military expenditures are high, compared to the level of income, such outlays have often proved resistant to spending cuts, which may have increased their share further in the overall budget. However, for countries undertaking adjustment, the share of military expenditure in total government spending fell slightly during the eighties.

At an average of 4.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), expenditures were nevertheless excessive in much of the developing world. In certain countries military outlays account for as much as 15 per cent of GDP, which has contributed to unsustainable budget deficits and external debt servicing difficulties.

It is obvious that by reallocating savings from reduced military spending to infrastructure investment and the formation of human capital, or by using such savings to reduce budget deficits, many countries would be able to increase capital foundation, raise growth of potential output and improve living standards.

Aid Not linked to poverty

INDIA, with 34 per cent of the world's absolute poor, receives only 3.5 per cent of total Official Development Assistance (ODA)

from the aid agencies, which is unrelated to the level of poverty, according to the Human Development Report 1992. The report, published for the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) and released in London on April 24, said the gap between rich and poor nations has grown at an alarming rate over the last 30 years.

Several decades of development assistance have not narrowed the gap, partially because aid has not been adequately directed to the poorest of the poor nor to basic human development concerns. South Asia receives \$5 per person while aid receiving countries in West Asia, with more than three times South Asia's per capita income, receives \$55 per person. The 10 countries that together have more than 70 per cent of the world's poorest people receive only a quarter of global aid. The countries that get the most aid are often those using their resources unwisely. High military spenders get roughly twice as much aid per capita as moderate spenders, and over 25 per cent more than low military spenders.

Unfortunately, aid is not allocated to what should be human priority concerns. Basic education, primary health care, safe drinking water and nutrition programmes get only 10 per cent of multilateral ODA and 6.5 per cent of bilateral ODA. Since the prospects for a major increase in the total volume of ODA are rather dim, every opportunity must be seized to improve the quality of foreign assistance, according to the report.

The income disparities within countries are considerable. The worst national disparity is in Brazil—26 times between the richest 20 per cent of the people and the poorest 20 per cent according to their per capita income. But the international disparity is far greater today; it is at least 150 times, having doubled over the past 30 years.

India has 48 per cent of the total

population below the poverty line. In rural areas 51 per cent of the people are below the poverty line. With a vast middle class, it has a comparatively lower level of disparity. The ratio of highest 20 per cent to lowest 20 per cent is five. But the GNP per capita in India is much less at \$340. The lowest 40 per cent of households per capita GNP in India is \$120. The income share of lowest 40 per cent of households in India is 20.4 per cent.

Global disparities in indicators of basic human survival like primary education, life expectancy, infant and child mortality, have narrowed considerably during the past three decades. But disparities in technology and information systems have tended to widen.

Koirala: Communists disrupting peace

THE Nepalese Prime Minister, Dr Girija Prasad Koirala, has charged communists and leftists with disturbing the peaceful atmosphere in the country, as the main communist opposition demanded the resignation of the Home Minister for excesses on the "Nepal bandh" day in April.

Addressing a gathering of diplomats and intellectuals in Kathmandu, he said the ideals of democracy and socialism continued to be the guiding principles of the policies and programmes of the ruling Nepali Congress.

Some elements in Nepal are uneasy with this peaceful, tolerant and democratic ideals of the Government, Dr Koirala added, referring to communists and leftists.

The Prime Minister claimed that the record of the Government's one year in power was an "open book". The challenges before it are enormous, but the Government will not waver from its commitment to promote social and economic progress in greater freedom. "Our focus remains on reaching the fruits of freedom and development to the poorest."

Meanwhile, the United Com-

munist Party of Nepal (Marxist-Leninist)—the main opposition in parliament—announced it would launch an agitation over its 11-point charter of demands which includes resignation of the Home Minister.

Declaration to save earth

THERE is near agreement on the issue of transferring technology in the build-up to the Rio conference on environment and development. This will form part of "Agenda 21" programme titled with the next century in mind.

The Kuala Lumpur declaration outlining a common stand on ways to save the earth from global pollution and degradation to be discussed at the June earth summit in Brazil was adopted by Ministers of developed countries on April 28. The declaration calls for a new global partnership taking into account the neglect by rich countries of the North of growth and development in the developing countries of the South.

The Ministers stressed that in this new global partnership, development should be stressed in the international agenda and a supportive international environment created to facilitate the achievement of this objective. The US proposed in Singapore recently the establishment of an Asian partnership programme for funding the education of personnel from the South, technical co-operation and conservation and biological preservation. Mr Ryan of US discounted fears that this could amount to the US using environment as a vehicle for exporting its technologies many of which were wasteful and inappropriate to developing countries.

As for the Malaysian Prime Minister's call at the developing countries' ministerial conference on environment and development for all countries to green 30 per cent of their land surface, the U.S. thinks it is good only as a general objective rather than as a specific mechanism. The U.S. spokesman was not sure how the figure of 30 per cent had been arrived at and whether it would compensate for carbon dioxide emissions globally.

THE EXAMINER'S GUESS QUESTIONS

Q. What was the growth rate of deposits in the Indian banking system in calendar year 1991?

Ans. 18.7 per cent. It was 14.1 per cent in 1990. The aggregate deposits of all scheduled banks, as on the last Friday of December 1991 stood at Rs 2,19,542 crore.

Q. Who is the director of multi-million dollar film *Buddha*?

Ans. Mira Nair. Her earlier films are *Salaam Bombay* and *Mississippi Masala*.

Q. India recently became the 113th country to sign the convention of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). What is MIGA?

Ans. MIGA is the affiliate of the world bank group. It was established in 1988 with the primary objective of encouraging the flow of foreign investment into developing member countries.

The agency provides insurance to foreign investors against political risks (currency transfer, expropriation, war and civil disturbance and breach of contract). It also assists member countries in increasing the attractiveness of their investment climate by offering promotional and advisory services to governments.

Q. What was the total direct tax collection during the financial year 1991-92?

Ans. 14,674 crore. This is an increase of 39 per cent over the preceding year.

Q. As per the latest reports which country has the world's largest foreign exchange reserves?

Ans. Taiwan—over \$ 80 billion. India is the only major developing country to experience loss of foreign exchange reserves during last two years.

Q. What was the annual rate of

inflation for 1991-92, based on monthly averages of wholesale price index (base 1981-82=100)?

Ans. 13.6 per cent. In 1990-91 the rate was 10.3 per cent.

Q. Where is the seventh Export Processing Zone (EPZ) of India coming up?

Ans. Visakhapatnam. The six other EPZs are located at Kandla, Santa Cruz (Bombay), NOIDA, Madras, Falta (near Calcutta) and Cochin.

The EPZs are established to provide an internationally competitive and duty-free environment for export production at low costs.

Q. What are the highlights of the Human Development Index calculated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)?

Ans. India ranks very low at 121st position just below Pakistan among 160 countries in human development index.

Sri Lanka finds itself among the countries with medium human development and ranks 76th above China which is at 79th.

The index is based on several factors including life expectancy, adult literacy, years of schooling, per capita GDP, access to services and crimes rate.

Among the top five are Canada, Japan, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden in that order. The United States ranks sixth followed by Australia, France, Netherland and Britain.

On the other end of the scale are Niger at 156 followed by Burkina Faso, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Q. Name the films produced by Satyajit Ray?

Ans. *Pather Panchali*; *Aparajito*; *Parash Pathar*; *Jalsaghar*; *Apur*

Sansar; *Devi*; *Teen Kanya*; *Kanchanjunga*; *Abhijaan*; *Mahanagar*; *Charulata*; *Kapurush*-O-Mahapurush; *Nayak*; *Chidiakhana*; *Gopi Gyne Bagha Byne*; *Aranyer Din Raatri*; *Pratidwandi*; *Seemabaddha*; *Ashani Sanket*; *Sonar Kella*; *Jana Aranya*; *Shatranj Ke Khiladi*; *Joi Baba Felunath*; *Hirak Rajar Deshe*; *Ghare Baire*; *Ganashatru*; *Shajha Prashajha*; *Agantuk*.

Q. Name the UN envoy to Afghanistan to arrange for a peaceful settlement of Afghan problem?

Ans. Benon Sevan.

Q. Which English County cricket club has Sachin Tendulkar joined?

Ans. Yorkshire.

Q. Which Indian State has the lowest per capita income?

Ans. Bihar.

Q. Which day was celebrated as World Solar Energy Day?

Ans. May 3.

Q. What is ISO-9000 certificate?

Ans. The certification is a stringent quality control standard for electronic goods that is essential for any Indian exporter to compete in international markets, particularly in the European community.

The department of electronics has reached an understanding with the British Standards Institution to facilitate issuance of ISO-9000 certification in India.

Q. How many years did Survey of India complete in 1992?

Ans. 225.

Q. What public sector outlay is envisaged in the annual plan for 1991-92?

Ans. Rs 72,317 crore as against the approved outlay of Rs 64,717 crore in the previous year.

Q. What was the total milk production in India in 1990-91?

Ans. 53.7 million tonnes.

Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

CLIPS: Computerised Laser Identity Card Printing System

COBE: Cosmic Background Explorer Spacecraft.

GEF: Global Environment Facility.

GSP: Generalised System of Preferences.

MTCR: Missile Technology Control Regime

AWARDS

Dada Saheb Phalke award, 1992

THE Dada Saheb Phalke award for 1992 has been given to Bhalchandra Govind Pendharkar, the veteran Marathi film personality. He has produced, directed and written over sixty Marathi and eight Hindi films in a career spanning over seventy years.

Goldman Environmental Prize, 1992

MS Medha Patkar of the *Narmada Bachao Andolan* is among the six environmental activists who has been awarded the third annual Goldman environmental prize

Thirty-seven-year-old Ms Patkar is a central organiser and strategist of the *Narmada Bachao Andolan*—a people's movement to stop a series of dams planned for India's largest west-ward flowing river, the Narmada.

The other winners are: Ms Colleen McCroy of Canada who has been crusading to protect the world's largest remaining temperate rain forest in British Colombia; Mr Jetor Ajain of Marshall Islands who led the evacuation of his community from Rongelap Atoll which was contaminated by US nuclear testing; Mr Christine Jean of France who has been a pivotal figure in opposing the plans to dam the coire, longest and most famous river of France; Mr Carlos Alberto Ricardo of Brazil who is a pioneer in identifying and advancing links between human rights and en-

vironmental protection in Brazil, and Mr Wadja Mathien Egnankou of Ivory Coast, who has been struggling to protect what remains of the once abundant coastal mangrove forest.

Each of the winners will receive \$ 60,000.

DAYS

UNESCO International Press Freedom Day

THE first UNESCO International Press Freedom Day was celebrated on May 3.

The day is being celebrated in the background of grim disclosure by Amnesty International which says that nearly 120 journalists are currently in jail in different countries. It also says that 65 journalists were killed last year while working on stories and there were about 1270 cases of attacks on reporters, including physical violence, death threats, detentions and legal actions. A French human rights group, Reporters Sans Frontieres, has also prepared its catalogue of journalists facing persecution.

DEFENCE

'Prithvi' launched successfully

THE modern and sophisticated surface-to-surface missile *Prithvi*, was successfully test launched from the Interim Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Balasore district of Orissa on May 5, 1992.

This is for the first time that the missile has been launched from the Chandipur ITR. Earlier, it was launched from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

The successful launch has reiterated Indian defence scientists' capabilities and will add a new dimension to national defence preparedness.

This was the seventh launch, after the failure in the sixth trial in February 1991. It has proved that the improved design will work. The missile had broken in mid-air last time

during a difficult manoeuvre to test the structural strength.

The missile will be manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Ltd, Hyderabad and production will start in early 1993. *Prithvi* is likely to be deployed by the Army in 1993.

The success is particularly important in the changed modern warfare scenario in the aftermath of the Gulf war in 1991. Experts predict that future wars will be decided by missile armouries of warring nations with the conventional, ground-based forces being deployed only to secure the cleared territories.

This success will also give the scientists the necessary confidence to go ahead with the planned second test launch of the indigenous, intermediate range (approximately 2,500 km) ballistic missile, *Agni*. The two-stage *Agni* incorporates *Prithvi*'s design in the second stage.

India's Rs 800-crore Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) was launched in 1983. *Prithvi* is one of the five missiles under various stages of development.

Prithvi is a mobile-launched medium range missile. It has range of 250 km with 250 kg of warhead and 150 km with 1,000 kg warhead. It is mounted on an eight-wheeled truck, manufactured under licence by the Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), Bangalore. It has an inertial navigation system which uses advanced computers. This improves the accuracy of it hitting the target and is capable of making slight corrections in the flight to home-in onto the target.

Prithvi was testfired for the first time from Sriharikota, on February 25, 1988.

MIG-27M Bomber: An Aeronautical Milestone

THE Indian aeronautical industry crossed a historical milestone on May 2, 1992 when the 100th MIG-

27M swing-wing fighter-bomber, produced by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Nashik division, was delivered to the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Ojhar.

The MIG-27M is an advanced ground-attack fighter-bomber, operating at supersonic speeds. Equipped with advanced avionics and navigational system it is capable of carrying various weapon loads, including bombs, missiles, rocket pods and air-to-air six-barrel gun.

The handing over of the 100th MIG-27M symbolised Nashik division's quantum jump in the production of a new generation MIG series of aircraft in India. HAL's Nashik division along with its other units and the avionics division at Hyderabad, were set up with Soviet collaboration in 1964. The first MIG-27 thereafter rolled out in 1984.

PERSONS

Gokak, Dr Vinayak Krishna

DR Vinayak Krishna Gokak, the giant of the Kannada literary world, died on April 29, 1992 at the age of 82.

He was a harbinger of revolutionary change in modern Kannada poetry and is widely acclaimed for injecting freshness and unorthodoxy in style.

He was born on August 9, 1909 at Savanur in Dharwar district of Karnataka. He did M.A. in English literature from Oxford University. He appeared on the literary scene in 1934 with his lyrical composition *Kathopasaka* which is considered to be a path-breaking work in Kannada poetry.

In 1990 he was awarded the Jnanpith award.

Pendharkar, B.G.

BHALCHANDRA Govind Pendharkar, the veteran Marathi film personality, has been honoured with the Dada Saheb Phalke award, 1992.

He was born on May 3, 1898 in Kolhapur in Maharashtra. In 1920 he joined the film industry as writer-director and has been actively associated with production of films, since then.

He has produced, directed and

written over sixty Marathi and eight Hindi films. Two of his films—*Saadhi Manasa* and *Tambadi Mathi*—have bagged the national award for the best film. He also has the rare honour to be the first producer-director in India whose film—*Sham Sunder*—celebrated Silver Jubilee in Bombay as early as 35 years ago.

Ray, Satyajit

THE great film director, Mr Satyajit Ray, died on April 23, 1992 after a prolonged illness. He had recently been honoured with the special Oscar award for life-time achievement and the *Bharat Ratna*.

He was born on May 2, 1921 in Calcutta. He began his career as a Junior visualiser at the British owned advertising agency, D.J. Keymer, in April 1943 for Rs 80 per month. He rose to be its art director in a couple of years. But it was in designing books for the Signet Press, a new publishing house started by Mr D.K. Gupta, that he found greater creative satisfaction. At the same time he started writing film scripts.

His first film, *Pathar Panchali* (1955), based on famous novel by Bibhuti Bhushan Bandyopadhyay, brought him instant fame with the President's Gold Medal. The film was nothing short of a revolution in its portrayal of human reality.

The list of honours received by him include: Magsaysay in 1967, Padma Vibhushan in 1974, D. Litt. from Oxford London, fellowship of British Film Institute in 1983, the Legion d'Honneur from France in 1984 and the special Oscar and *Bharat Ratna* in 1992.

PLACES

Afghanistan

AFTER fourteen years of civil war a ray of hope for peace has kindled in Afghanistan. With the take-over of power by the interim Mujahideen Council headed by Prof Sibghatullah Mojadidi, it is hoped that the country will be able to get rid of the strife-torn and war-ravaged atmosphere.

Afghanistan is a land-locked country. It is bounded by the former Soviet republics of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tadzhikistan in the

north, Iran on the west and on the east and south by Pakistan. In the north east it touches the Sinkiang Vighur Autonomous Region of China and Hunza in Kashmir. The capital is Kabul.

The dominant feature of Afghanistan is the great central range of mountains which divides the country approximately from east to west. The inhabitants are divisible into four main cultural groups: the Pashtun (Pathan), the Tadzhik, the Uzbek and the Hazara. The Pathans form about 60% of the population.

Afghanistan has been a crossroads for historical and religious forces between Europe and Asia since the days of Alexander the Great. Chengis Khan and Timur crossed it. Buddhism flowed westward from India, Islam eastward from Arabia. Before World War II the British and imperial Russia assiduously contested for influence and after World War II USSR, China and USA.

RESEARCH

Laser I-card to help curb rigging

Atemper proof, low cost, Computerised Laser Identity Card Printing System (CLIPS) with the potential to check infiltration and curb rigging in elections, has been developed by researchers at the public sector Electronics Corporation of India, Limited (ECIL), Hyderabad.

CLIPS finds extensive use in border States to check infiltration and create a sound identity data base. The Union Home Ministry, which funded the project, is using CLIPS in Assam, Tripura and plans to extend it to Punjab, Kashmir and other sensitive areas.

CLIPS is a black and white photo I-card, which cannot be tampered because the photo is printed.

Since CLIPS is embedded in a van with in-built power systems, issue of I-cards on a mass scale and even in remote villages with power problems is possible. Further, the cost of each card is only around 50 paise.

SPACE RESEARCH

Fresh light on origin of universe

ASTROPHYSICISTS are excited about a new evidence from space

of the way creation came about and they hope that ground-based observations as well as more sensitive space probes would confirm the latest findings, finally unravelling the oldest scientific riddle.

American scientists reported an important advance in cosmology based on the observations by the Cosmic Background Explorer spacecraft (COBE) which found gigantic ripples of matter at the edge of the universe. These observations point to the way stars and galaxies were formed after the big bang that is believed to have resulted in the birth of the universe. The COBE has photographed "the epoch of recombination" at the point at which galaxies began to form in the primordial soup, once it cooled down sufficiently some 3,00,000 years after the big bang.

In this, the measurement of microwave background radiation (first discovered in 1964) permeating the universe as the last dying echo of the big bang, could help. The space probe enhanced this capacity and the NASA satellite detected tiny variations in this radiation which were not detected earlier. Although the ripples occurred 15 billion years ago, radio signals of it are only reaching the earth, now.

Reactivating a battered spacecraft

BATTERED and bruised by cosmic ice and dust, a sleeping spacecraft, now orbiting the sun, will soon be jolted awake by scientists from earth for a second remarkable mission.

The Giotto spacecraft, that created history six years ago by its close encounter with Halley's Comet, sending detailed, the best-ever pictures of the Comet's icy core, is now being scheduled for another mission on a Comet.

Its target this time is the Comet Grigg-Skjellerup and the rendezvous is set for July 10, 1992.

Launched by the European Space Agency (ESA) in July 1985, Giotto advanced as near as 600 km of Halley's Comet in March 1986, revealing a hilly nucleus. Scientists had not expected the spacecraft to survive its encounter with the dust around the Comet that would hit the space

vehicle with an explosive force nearly 50 times that of bullets.

But Giotto survived, although slightly damaged and scientists at ESA are confident that the spacecraft is still healthy enough to help loose secrets of Comet Grigg-Skjellerup as well.

MISCELLANY

New Course for Chartered Accountants

THE Institute of Chartered Accountants of India has introduced one-year foundation course as part of the revised structure of education for students joining the chartered accountancy course.

The course will be first of its kind in India and is open to students passing the Senior Secondary or an equivalent examination (ten plus two). The introduction of the foundation course would enable students at a younger age of around 17/18 years to join the foundation course. On passing the foundation course examination, the students can undergo three years practical training and after passing the Intermediate and final examinations of the C.A. course, they can become chartered accountants at an age of around 21/22 years. This will result in a saving of at least two years than what is possible under the existing system.

India's forest cover goes up by 5 per cent

LATEST satellite imagery surveys have established, beyond doubt that India's forest cover has gone up by more than five per cent in the past few years.

The country's forest cover, which was estimated to have depleted to an abysmal low of 14 per cent of its total land area, has gone up to 19 or 20 per cent.

The development is being billed as a major breakthrough in restoring India's ecology and environment, which had suffered in a big way to the altar of development.

However, a total reversal of the process of environmental and ecological degradation is still a far cry as ideally speaking at least one-third of the country's total land mass should have a forest cover.

Upto 1989, wastelands were ex-

panding at a rapid pace at the rate of 47,000 hectares annually. Then the process was virtually reversed following massive afforestation efforts. Satellite imagery has shown that the country's forest cover had been increasing at the rate of 63,000 hectares every year, since 1989.

It all began in 1985 when, as a first major initiative on a country-wide basis, the national wastelands development programme was launched with the main emphasis on three central issues: ecological crisis caused by deforestation and land degradation, socio-economic crisis caused by acute shortage of fuel-wood and fodder and making afforestation a people's movement.

5,220 glaciers in Himalayas

AFTER 18 years of painstaking efforts, scientists have counted the number of glaciers in the Himalayas: 5,220. So far, various studies speculated the figure to be between 5,000 and 15,000.

An eight-member team of the Calcutta-based Geological Survey of India (GSI) completed the study recently.

Glaciers are permanent bodies of ice consisting of crystallised snow accumulated on the surface of mountains. They are a natural storehouse of fresh water and act as a buffer, particularly in augmenting summer stream flows of many perennial rivers.

The first systematic study of the Himalayan glaciers was conducted in 1812 by two American researchers, Mr A. Mayweski and Mr A. Jeschke. However, not much was done afterwards due to the remoteness and the inhospitable terrain near glaciers. The GSI started the national programme on glaciers in 1974.

The GSI study shows these glaciers cover an area of 38,039 square kilometres, broadly divided into three river basins—Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra—on the Indian side of the Himalayas. The Indus basin has the largest number of glaciers—3,538, followed by the Ganga basin (1,020) and Brahmaputra (662). The Himalayas extend over 2,800 km in length from east to west and 400 km from north to south.

SPORTS

ARCHERY

Limba equals world record

Indian archer Limba Ram has equalled the world record for the 30 metres event at the China International archery tournament held at Beijing.

The young Indian ace, who equalled the mark set by Matsushita Takaishi of Japan in 1987, scored 357 out of the possible 360 points.

BADMINTON

Asian Badminton Confederation Championship

Favourite Rashid Sidek of Malaysia retained the men's singles title of the Asian Badminton Confederation championships by thrashing compatriot Foo Kok Keong in a lacklustre final match, held at Kuala Lumpur.

Ye Zhaoying of China lifted the women's singles title when she outwitted compatriot Zhou Lei.

BILLIARDS

World Masters Championship

Geet Sethi made history on April 12, 1992 by becoming the first ever Indian to attain No. 1 ranking in professional billiards. In one of the finest matches in recent times, Geet overcame a fighting but tiring Robby Foldvari of Australia 8-5 in the final of the Consortium Finance World Masters Billiards Championship. The success put Geet a point ahead of reigning world champion Mike Russell in the provisional standings.

Geet will, nevertheless, have to wait until September when the official World Championship is scheduled to be held at Calcutta, for what one hopes to be the formal coronation.

BRIDGE

Inter-State Championship

Tamil Nadu represented by R. Raj Kumar, B. Prabhakar, K.R. Venka-

taraman, R. Krishnan and R. Ravichandran regained the Gurudutt Trophy, the symbol of supremacy in Inter-State bridge championship, defeating Maharashtra by 29 international match points in the final held at Shimla.

National Championship

The Ramamurthy Trophy Cup was lifted by Maharashtra when Raymonds team from Bombay defeated Kamalkar's team in the final of the National Bridge mixed team event by 41 international match points.

CRICKET

West Indies-S. Africa One-day series

Philip Simmons hit his third century in four matches to power the West Indies to a seven-wicket victory over South Africa at Port of Spain.

In the third and final one-day international, South Africa made 189 for six off 50 overs. The West Indies replied with 190 for three off 43 overs. Simmons scored 104. With this win, the West Indies made a clean sweep of one-day series.

First match: South Africa's cricketers were soundly beaten by West Indies when they lost the first-ever contest between the countries on Caribbean soil by 107 runs at Sabina Park in Kingston.

Second match: West Indies thrashed South Africa by 10 wickets to take an unbeatable 2-0 lead in their best-of-three one-day international series.

West Indies-S. Africa Test Series

First match: South Africa crashed to a sensational 52-run defeat in their historic cricket Test against West Indies at Bridgetown. Needing only 79 more runs to win with eight wickets in hand at the start of play, the South Africans were instead skittled out for 148 by West Indian fast bowlers Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh.

Wisden's five

The Wisden's best five for 1992 are: Phillip Defreitas (England), Curtly Ambrose (West Indies), Allan Donald (South Africa), Waqar Younis (Pakistan) and Richie Richardson (West Indies).

FOOTBALL

Airlines Gold Cup

East Bengal lifted the Airlines Gold Cup nudging out holders Mohun Bagan 1-0 at the Salt Lake Stadium in Calcutta.

HOCKEY

Beighton Cup

Two fine saves by keeper C.P. Thimaya in the tie-breaker helped Army XI, Jalandhar, to win the Beighton Cup Hockey Championship in their maiden appearance defeating Army Service Corps (ASC), Jalandhar, 6-2.

SQUASH

British Open

Jansher Khan, the 22-year-old Pakistani, won the British Open Squash title for the first time when he overcame Chris Robertson, the underdog from Australia.

SWIMMING

Asian Championship

China smashed two Asian records in the last two relay races to win the Asian Swimming Championships held in Hiroshima, Japan with a total of 24 golds, 15 silver and six bronze medals.

They were followed by hosts Japan with 11 gold, 17 silver and 15 bronze.

TENNIS

National Hardcourt Championship

Men's singles: Gaurav Natekar (Maharashtra)

Men's doubles: Gaurav Natekar and Nitin Kirtane (Tamil Nadu).

Women's singles: Krishnamurthy Janaki (Maharashtra)

Women's doubles: Natasha Joshi and Falguni Parsanna (Gujarat).

Inter-State championship

Gujarat women denied hosts Maharashtra a double team championship crown by clinching the final by two matches to one in the all-India Inter-State Tennis Championship held at Bombay.

Asif Ismail and Gaurav Natekar authored Maharashtra's title triumph in the men's Inter-State Team Tennis Championship. Their straight-set victories over K.G. Ramesh and Manoj Kumar respectively enabled the hosts register a winning 2-0 verdict over Tamil Nadu in the final.

Japan Open Championship

Jim Courier captured his sixth career victory when he beat Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands to win the men's singles title at the 1.19

million dollar Japan Open tennis tournament.

Spanish Open title

Unseeded Spaniard Carlos Costa won his second tennis tournament in succession when he beat Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden in the final of the Spanish Open.

WRESTLING

Asian men's Championship

South Korean powerman shattered four Asian records on route to winning six gold medals on the final day of the 24th Asian men's weightlifting championships.

Chon Sang-Seok, 23, snatched 180.5 kilograms to better his own Asian mark of 180 in the 110 kg event.

The over 110-kg event witnessed a clean sweep by another South Korean, Kim Tee-Hyun, who also set two Asian records.

His winning total of 410 shattered the eight-year-old Asian mark of 405 held by Iranian Raza Teymoura.

At the end of the five-day championships, hosts China topped the senior's medal standings with 13 golds, following by South Korea (12), Iraq (3) and North Korea (2).

The next Asian championships will be held in Teheran in 1993.

Asian Greco-Roman championship

Two Indian wrestlers, Pappu Yadav and M.R. Patil bagged a silver medal each in the Asian Greco-Roman wrestling championship, held in Teheran, Iran.

Yadav lost to Japan's Ohashi Masanori in the 40 kg category in which South Korean Sim Kwon Ho took the bronze.

Patil could not sustain the onslaught of Iranian Ahad Pazaj who took the gold in 62 kg while Kim Dong Bum of South Korea won the bronze.

South Korea with 87 points won the team title, followed by Iran with 86 and China with 64, Japan (56), Chinese Taipei (46) and India (30).

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Appointments Etc

Appointed; Elected Etc

Alpha Oumar Konare: He has been elected as the President of Mali.

Sibghatullah Mojaddedi: He has been chosen to be the first President of Post-Communist Afghanistan by several Mujahideen leaders.

Chris Patten: He has been appointed as the Governor of Hong Kong.

Janez Drnovsek. He has been elected Prime Minister of Slovenia.

Gen Than Shwe: He has been appointed head of Myanmar's ruling military junta.

P.K. Dave: He has been appointed as the Lt-Governor of Delhi.

L.N. Mishra. Governor of Assam, he has been given additional charge as Governor of Nagaland.

Justice A.N. Verma (retd): He has been appointed Chairman of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission.

P.B. Roy: He has been appointed as the Registrar of Newspapers.

Gajendra Singh: He has been appointed as new envoy of India to Turkey.

Resigned

Francesco Cossiga: President of Italy.

Omar Karam: Prime Minister of Lebanon.

Gen Saw Maung: Head of Myanmar's ruling military junta.

Mohammad Najibullah: President of Afghanistan.

Neil Kinnock: British Labour Party Leader.

Markandey Singh: Lt Governor of Delhi.

M.M. Thomas: He was dismissed by the President as Governor of Nagaland.

Distinguished Visitors

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan: President of United Arab Emirates.

Supar Murad Niazov: President of Turkmenistan.

Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali: Secretary General of United Nations.

Gennady Burbulis: Secretary of State of Russia.

Died

Satyajit Ray: The legendary film director of Indian Cinema.

Dr V.K. Gokak: A prominent author of Kannada literature. He was 82.

Raja Bhalindra Singh: A prominent Sports Administrator.

Prof D.T. Lakdawala: Renowned economist.

Benny Hill: British comedian.

Ahmed Shah Masood is asked to head the Council.

23—A series of gas explosions leaves more than 180 persons dead in Guadalajara, second biggest city of Mexico.

25—Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, falls to rebel groups.

26—Fighting between the rival Mujahideen groups in Afghanistan intensifies. Scores of people are reported killed.

28—Rebel leaders take power in Afghanistan ending a 14-year civil war against communist governments.

30—President Bush of USA suspends duty-free treatment to India's export of pharmaceuticals and chemicals in retaliation for alleged violations of US intellectual property rights.

MAY

1—Fifth round of West Asia talks ends in Washington with no breakthrough.

—Riots break in Los Angeles in USA. More than 31 people are killed. Property worth more than \$ 550 million is destroyed.

4—India and Russia sign a 5-year trade pact stipulating all payments in freely convertible currencies.

—81 persons are killed in a house collapse in Srinagar.

7—Militants kill 15 persons in Karnal district of Haryana.

8—Government rejects plea for Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe in the Solanki episode of Bofors scandal.

—More than 200 people are killed in Cuttack after consuming spurious liquor.

9—The Punjab Minister of State for Public Health, Mr Maninderjit Singh Bitta is injured in a bomb attack in Amritsar. Blast leaves 12 dead and 50 injured.

10—The Chairman of the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission, Dr Devinder Singh Tyagi is killed by unidentified gunmen on the steps of his flat in Delhi.

EVENTS

APRIL

10—Mr John Major leads the Tories to a historic fourth term in office, winning an absolute majority in the UK Parliamentary polls.

13—The Russian Cabinet resigns in the wake of mega Parliament turning down its proposals to pursue radical economic reforms.

15—The United Nations mandated sanctions against Libya come into force effectively cutting-off

Tripoli's air links with the rest of the world.

—The Indian National Congress holds elections to its highest body, the Working Committee, after a gap of 20 years.

16—Afghan President Mohammad Najibullah steps down. A coalition of generals takes over power in Afghanistan.

19—Afghan Mujahideen groups reach a broad agreement to form a 20-member Council to assume executive powers. Mr

Quantitative Aptitude

1. A man donated 5% of his salary to a welfare fund and deposited 12% of the salary in a saving bank account. If he has now Rs 622.50 left with him, what is his monthly salary?

- (a) Rs 750 (b) Rs 850 (c) Rs 905.50
(d) Rs 800 (e) None of these

2. A ladder is placed 5 m away from the foot of the wall and it reaches a height of 12 m from the ground. Find the length of the ladder.

- (a) 11 m (b) 13 m (c) 14 m
(d) 12.5 m (e) None of these

3. After five years the age of a father will be thrice the age of his son, whereas five years ago he was seven times as old as his son was. What is father's present age?

- (a) 50 yrs (b) 40 yrs (c) 45 yrs
(d) 35 yrs (e) None of these

4. The sum of two numbers is 35 and their difference is 13. Find the greater number.

- (a) 25 (b) 23 (c) 24 (d) 20
(e) None of these

5. The distance between Delhi and Ghaziabad is 110 kms. Ramesh starts from Delhi with a speed of 20 kms/hour at 7.00 a.m. for Ghaziabad. And Suresh starts from Ghaziabad with a speed of 25 kms/hour at 8.00 a.m. for Delhi. When will they meet?

- (a) 9.00 a.m. (b) 10.00 a.m. (c) 9.30 a.m.
(d) 10.30 a.m.

6. Find the cost of paving of a rectangular courtyard 40 meters long and 10 meters wide, if the paving cost is Rs 50 per 100 square meter.

- (a) Rs 200 (b) Rs 80 (c) Rs 150
(d) Rs 220

7. How much work can a person do in a day, if he can do it in 10 days?

- (a) $\frac{1}{10}$ (b) $\frac{1}{15}$ (c) $\frac{1}{5}$ (d) $\frac{1}{20}$
(e) None of these

8. A number exceeds its $\frac{2}{3}$ by 25. What is the number?

- (a) 75 (b) 50 (c) 80 (d) $\frac{50}{3}$
(e) None of these

9. $\frac{1}{4}$ of one-third of one-half of a number is 5. What is the number?

- (a) 150 (b) 200 (c) 120 (d) 100
(e) None of these

10. Which of the following is in descending order?

- (a) $\frac{3}{5}, \frac{5}{7}, \frac{7}{9}$ (b) $\frac{7}{9}, \frac{5}{7}, \frac{3}{5}$ (c) $\frac{5}{7}, \frac{7}{9}, \frac{3}{5}$
(d) $\frac{3}{5}, \frac{7}{9}, \frac{5}{7}$

- (d) $\frac{7}{9}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{5}{7}$ (e) None of these

11. $\frac{2}{3}$ of a number is thirty less than the original

number. What is the number?

- (a) 40 (b) 90 (c) 20 (d) 50
(e) None of these

12. The diameter of a circle is 21 cm. What is its circumference?

- (a) 44 (b) 66 (c) 33 (d) 22
(e) None of these

13. A person bought a bicycle at 20% less its marked price. By selling it for Rs 660 he got a profit of 10%. What was the marked price of the cycle?

- (a) 800 (b) 712.80 (c) 600 (d) 750
(e) None of these

14. I bought one dozen pencils at the rate of 5 paise per pencil. For how much one pencil should be sold to get a profit of 20%?

- (a) 72 paise (b) 6 paise (c) 60 paise
(d) 5 paise (e) None of these

15. How many numbers can be divided by 9 between 1 and 100?

- (a) 18 (b) 16 (c) 14 (d) 11
(e) None of these

16. Perimeter of a square is 400 m. What is its area in hectares?

- (a) 16 (b) 8 (c) 4 (d) 1
(e) None of these

17. What decimal of an hour is a second?

- (a) .0025 (b) .00027 (c) .000126
(d) .0256 (e) None of these

18. Surface area of a cube is 216 sq m. What is its volume?

- (a) 108 (b) 512 (c) 216 (d) 432
(e) None of these

19. In how many days 20 men will complete a piece of work, if 16 men can complete it in 25 days?

- (a) 20 days (b) 22 days (c) 18 days
(d) 16 days (e) None of these

20. In a class the average age of 40 boys is 20 years. If the teacher is taken into account, the average age of the team is increased by 1 year. The age of the teacher is:

- (a) 21 years (b) 41 years (c) 61 years
(d) 70 years (e) None of these

21. What will C get out of 660 if A gets twice as much as B and B gets thrice as much as C?

- (a) 426 (b) 66 (c) 132 (d) 96
(e) None of these

22. By selling a pen for Rs 15, a man would lose one-sixteenth of what it cost him. What was his cost price?

- (a) 16 (b) 18 (c) 20 (d) 21
(e) None of these

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

23 At what rate % per annum simple interest will Rs 750 amount to Rs 900 in 4 years?

- (a) 5 (b) 8 (c) 10 (d) 15
(e) None of these

24 Three-fourth of a number is fifteen less than the original number. What is the number?

- (a) 40 (b) 90 (c) 50 (d) 60
(e) None of these

25 A reduction of 21% in the price of sugar enables me to buy 10.5 kg more for Rs 100. What is the reduced price per kg?

- (a) Rs 2.50 (b) Rs 2.25 (c) Rs 2.00
(d) Rs 2.30 (e) None of these

26 The sum of two digits of a number is nine. When 9 is subtracted from the number, the digits change their places. What is the number?

- (a) 45 (b) 36 (c) 54 (d) 72
(e) None of these

27 $252 - 12 \times 7 = ?$

- (a) $3\frac{1}{6}$ (b) $2\frac{5}{12}$ (c) 3 (d) 147
(e) None of these

28 $5\frac{1}{2} + 3\frac{1}{4} + \frac{4}{3} = ?$

- (a) $10\frac{12}{15}$ (b) $10\frac{1}{2}$ (c) $10\frac{5}{8}$ (d) $10\frac{1}{12}$
(e) None of these

29 $0.84 - ? = 21$

- (a) 0.04 (b) 0.4 (c) 4 (d) 0.04
(e) None of these

30 $4096 \div 32 = ?$

- (a) 32 (b) 84 (c) 38 (d) 42
(e) None of these

31 $3 - \frac{5}{6} + 2\frac{3}{8} = ?$

- (a) $3\frac{3}{24}$ (b) $3\frac{5}{48}$ (c) $5\frac{1}{6}$ (d) $2\frac{13}{24}$
(e) None of these

32 90% of 180 + 200% of 19 = ?

- (a) 212 (b) 199 (c) 189 (d) 200
(e) None of these

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- 1 (a)
2 (b) Length of the ladder $\sqrt{(12)^2 + (5)^2} = 13$
3 (b) 4 (c) 5 (b) 6 (a) ,
7 (a) 8 (a)
9 (c) $\frac{1}{4} \{ \frac{1}{3} (\frac{3}{2}) \} = 5$, find x
10 (b) $\frac{7}{9} \times 35 = \frac{245}{9}$
 $\frac{5}{7} \times 45 = \frac{225}{7}$
 $\frac{7}{3} \times 45 = \frac{315}{3}$
 $\frac{3}{5} \times 65 = \frac{189}{5}$
 $\frac{5}{5} \times 65 = \frac{315}{5}$
11 (b)

12 (b) Diameter = 21 cm

$$\text{Radius} = \frac{21}{2} \text{ cm}$$

$$\text{Circumference} = 2\pi r$$

$$= 2 \times \frac{22}{7} \times \frac{21}{2} = 66 \text{ cm}$$

13 (d) Let marked price = Rs x

$$\therefore \left\{ x \times \frac{(100-20)}{100} \right\} \times \frac{(100+10)}{100} = \text{Rs } 660,$$

find x

14 (b) 15 (d) 16 (d) 17. (b)

18 (c) Surface Area of cube = $6l^2$

$$6l^2 = 216 \text{ sq m}$$

$$\therefore l = \sqrt{\frac{216}{6}} = 6 \text{ m}$$

$$\text{Hence Area of cube} = l^3 = 6^3 = 216 \text{ cu m}$$

19 (a)

20 (c) Total age of 40 boys = $40 \times 20 = 800$ years

$$\text{Total age of 40 boys and the teacher} = 41 \times 21 = 861$$

$$\text{Age of teacher} = 861 - 800 = 61 \text{ years}$$

21 (b) Let C get = x

$$\therefore \text{B gets } 3x \text{ and A gets } 6x$$

$$6x + 3x + x = 660$$

$$x = \frac{660}{10} = \text{Rs } 66$$

22 (a) Let C.P. of pen = Rs x Loss = $\frac{x}{16}$

$$\text{Hence } x - \frac{x}{16} = 15 \quad x = \text{Rs } 16$$

23 (a) Rate = $\frac{\text{Interest} \times 100}{\text{Principal} \times \text{Time}}$

$$R = \frac{(900 - 750) \times 100}{750 \times 4} = 5\%$$

24 (d)

25 (c) Reduced price per kg $\frac{100 \times 21}{100} + 10.5 = \text{Rs } 2$

26 (c) Let unit digit = x and ten digit = y

$$\text{Number} = 10y + x$$

According to sum -

$$x + y = 9 \quad (i)$$

$$(10y + x) - 9 = 10x + y$$

$$-x + y = 1 \quad (ii)$$

$$\text{Adding (i) and (ii), } 2y = 10 \text{ or } y = \frac{10}{2} = 5$$

$$\text{and } x = 9 - 5 = 4$$

$$\therefore \text{Number} = 10y + x = 10(5) + 4 = 54$$

27 (d)

28 (d)

29 (a)

30 (a)

31. (d)

32 (d)

GENERAL AWARENESS

1. The town of Talikota where the United Alliance between Bijapur, Bidar, Ahmednagar and Golkunda, under Husain Nizam Shah, defeated Ram Raja of Vijaynagar in 1565, is on the river:

- (a) Cauvery
- (b) Godavari
- (c) Krishna
- (d) Nerbada

2. The greatest disciple of Ramanand was:

- (a) Kabir
- (b) Gorakhnath
- (c) Namadeva
- (d) Narsi Mehta

3. Which of the following is NOT true about Sankaracharya who lived about the 9th century A.D.?

- (a) He preached his *Advaita* philosophy
- (b) He enunciated the doctrine of *maya* or illusion
- (c) He demolished the Buddhist doctrine
- (d) He popularised the worship of Shiva
- (e) He believed in ritualistic religion

4. Mohenjodaro was discovered in 1922 by.

- (a) Sir John Marshall
- (b) R.D. Banerjee
- (c) R.B. Dayaram Sahni
- (d) Dr Mortimer Wheeler

5. The use of which metal was not known to the people of Indus Valley civilization?

- (a) gold
- (b) silver
- (c) copper
- (d) iron
- (e) lead

6. Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) The Indus script has Egyptian element
- (b) People of the Indus Valley borrowed their script from the Sumerian script
- (c) The Indus script has not been deciphered so far

(d) The Indus script was Dravidian in origin

7. The ornaments of the poor people of Indus Valley civilization were made of:

- (a) silver
- (b) ivory
- (c) copper
- (d) shells and bones

8. The book "The Arctic Home of Aryans" was written by:

- (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (b) A C Dass, a Bengali historian
- (c) Swami Dayanand Saraswati
- (d) Pargitar

9. Which is NOT correct about the Vedic period (as Rig Veda points out)

- (a) The Aryan-Indians was a highly organised society
- (b) Polygamy (having more than one wife) was practiced among the princes
- (c) Polyandry (women having several husbands) was also common
- (d) The marriage was a sacred bond which could not be broken by any human action
- (e) The choice of the father counted in the selection of the bridegroom but the girl was also given a measure of independence in that matter

10. Which is NOT correct according to *Manusmriti* (written by Manu, the Hindu law giver):

- (a) women were not given a place of honour
- (b) women were forbidden to study the *Vedas*
- (c) women were not entitled to inherit any property except the *stridhan*
- (d) After marriage, she was not required to be under control of the husband

11. The twenty-fourth Tir-

thankara or Prophet of Jainism was:

- (a) Rishabha
- (b) Parsvanath
- (c) Mahavira
- (d) Siddhartha

12. Which one of the following is NOT true about Mahavira?

- (a) He believed in the worship of idols
- (b) He prescribed a life of celibacy
- (c) He believed that the three essentials of good life called the three Jewels or *Ratnas* were right faith, right knowledge and right action
- (d) He desired that no injury should be done to animals, birds, plants, insects etc

13. The first sermon called "Dharma Chakra Pravartana" was given by Buddha at:

- (a) Patliputra (modern Patna)
- (b) Sarnath (near Banaras)
- (c) Gaya
- (d) Hardwar

14. At the time of his death at the age of 80, Buddha's last words to his favourite disciple Ananda, were:

- (a) All here is transient
- (b) All here is full of pain
- (c) Look not for the refuge to any one besides yourself
- (d) More tears have flowed than all the water that is in the four great oceans

15. Which of the following is NOT true about Buddha's conception of religion?

- (a) He preached the "Four Noble Truths"
- (b) His conception of religion was purely ethical
- (c) He emphasised on worship and rituals
- (d) He was not prepared to bother whether the soul is the same as the body or distinct from it

16. The third Buddhist Council was held in Patliputra during the

- reign of:
- (a) Chandragupta Vikramaditya
 - (b) The Sungas
 - (c) Samudragupta
 - (d) Asoka
17. A new school of Buddhism known as Mahayanism, came into existence in the time of:
- (a) Asoka
 - (b) Kanishka
 - (c) Chandragupta
 - (d) Pushyamitra
18. The last king of the Nanda dynasty was:
- (a) Ugrasen
 - (b) Mahapadma
 - (c) Panduka
 - (d) Dhana Nanda
19. Of the following statements, which is NOT correct as mentioned in Kautilya's *Arthashastra*?
- (a) permanent peace is possible
 - (b) whosoever is superior in power shall wage war
 - (c) whosoever is rising in power may break the agreement of peace
 - (d) the king who is situated anywhere on the circumference of the conqueror's territory is termed the enemy
20. The mighty empire of the Mauryas began to decline after the death of:
- (a) Chandragupta Maurya
 - (b) Asoka
 - (c) Bindusara
 - (d) Brihadratha
21. Which of the following is NOT true about the sources of revenue in the Mauryan system of administration?
- (a) The land revenue was the chief source of the income of the State
 - (b) It was levied at the rate of one-fourth of the produce of the land
 - (c) The tax on sales (or sales tax) was levied
 - (d) There was no system of excise licences
22. The first ruler of the Sunga dynasty (185-73 B.C.) which succeeded the Mauryans, was:
- (a) Pushyamitra
 - (b) Agnimitra
 - (c) Vasumitra
 - (d) Sujyestha
23. The great Stupa of Sanchi and the railings which enclose it belong to the:
- (a) Mauryan period
 - (b) Sunga period
 - (c) Magadha period
 - (d) Satavahana
24. Kharvela was the king of:
- (a) Magadha
 - (b) Patliputra
 - (c) Kalinga
 - (d) Deccan
25. The founder of the Satavahana dynasty, who ruled for 23 years from about 235 B.C. to 212 B.C. was:
- (a) Satakarni
 - (b) Gautamiputra Siri Satakarni
 - (c) Simuka
 - (d) Pulumayi
26. The greatest literary figure of Kanishka's court was:
- (a) Kalidas
 - (b) Nagarjuna
 - (c) Asvaghosha
 - (d) Charak
27. Which one of the following is NOT true?
- (a) Kanishka was one of the greatest kings of ancient India
 - (b) He was a great patron of art and learning
 - (c) No Indian ruler has ruled over such a vast empire in Central Asia as was done by Kanishka
 - (d) He was the only Indo-Asiatic king whose territories extended beyond the Pamirs
 - (e) All the above are true
28. *Susruta*, the great book on medicine, was written by:
- (a) Nagarjuna
 - (b) Asvaghosha
 - (c) Charak
 - (d) Vasumitra
29. The philosopher-scientist and a great figure of the court of Kanishka whom Hieun-Tsang called "one of the four lights of the world" and who also enunciated the theory of Relativity in his great work called *Madhyamika Sutra*, was:
- (a) Nagarjuna
 - (b) Asvaghosha
 - (c) Vasumitra
 - (d) Rudradamana
30. The headless statue of Kanishka, an important relic of his period, was found in:
- (a) Peshawar
 - (b) Taxila
 - (c) Kanishkapura
 - (d) Mathura
31. Which one of the following statements is NOT true about the administration and economic conditions during Kanishka's reign?
- (a) India had a favourable balance of trade with the Roman Empire
 - (b) There were many revolts
 - (c) Agriculture was the backbone of the economy of the country and ways and means of improving and increasing the produce were adopted
 - (d) The trade guilds enjoyed stability and confidence
32. The 'stupas' at Sanchi portray the art and sculpture of:
- (a) Buddhists
 - (b) Early Aryans
 - (c) Jains
 - (d) Muslims
33. Indian National Congress adopted the resolution of complete Independence (Poorna Swaraj) at its session held at:
- (a) Madras
 - (b) Ahmedabad
 - (c) Lahore
 - (d) Calcutta
34. Which of the following statements about Amir Khusrau is NOT TRUE?
- (a) He was a great poet
 - (b) He was a great historian
 - (c) He worked for Hindu-Muslim unity
 - (d) He wrote in Hindi and Urdu both
35. Which one of the following was not known to the people of the Indus Valley civilization?
- (a) Iron
 - (b) Bronze
 - (c) Copper
 - (d) Silver
36. Nadir Shah invaded India in the reign of:
- (a) Farukhsiyar
 - (b) Jahandar Shah
 - (c) Mohd Shah
 - (d) Akbar Shah II
37. Who amongst the following

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

Chola Kings fought against the Sailendra King of Srivijaya (in Sumatra) and defeated him?

- (a) Parantaka I
- (b) Rajaraja-I
- (c) Sundar Chola or Parantaka II
- (d) Rajendra I

38. Hieun-Tsang, the Chinese pilgrim, visited India during the reign of:

- (a) Chandragupta Maurya
- (b) Kanishka
- (c) Ashoka
- (d) Harshavardhana

39. The Zend Avesta is the Holy Book of the.

- (a) Hebrews
- (b) Roman Catholics
- (c) Zoroastrians
- (d) Quakers

40. Who amongst the following was the first woman President of the Indian National Congress?

- (a) Annie Besant
- (b) Mira Behn
- (c) Sarojini Naidu
- (d) Kasturba Gandhi

41. Minto-Morley Reforms aimed at

- (a) Grant of Dominion Status to Indians
- (b) Separate electorates for the Muslims
- (c) Special powers to the Government to deal with anti-government elements
- (d) Full development of education

42. Jawaharlal Nehru helped to start the newspaper:

- (a) Kesri
- (b) National Herald
- (c) Patriot
- (d) Pioneer

43. Manas Sanctuary is located in:

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Assam

44. Which is the biggest hinterland port in India?

- (a) Bombay
- (b) Calcutta
- (c) Kandla
- (d) Visakhapatnam

45. What incident at Chauri Chaura forced Mahatma Gandhi to call off his agitation?

- (a) Unsatisfactory and insufficient response to the movement against British Rule
- (b) Betrayal by some of his followers
- (c) Communal clashes in some parts of the country
- (d) Killing of some policemen

46. Who granted the present site of Amritsar to Guru Ram Das?

- (a) Sher Shah
- (b) Akbar
- (c) Shah Jahan
- (d) Aurangzeb

47. The Strait which separates Asia from North America is the.

- (a) Strait of Gibraltar
- (b) Palk Strait
- (c) Strait of Malacca
- (d) Berring Strait

48. Match the following:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Pressler | (a) World Bank Chief |
| 2. Dunkel | (b) Trade Representative |
| 3. Preston | (c) Senator |
| 4. Carla Hills | (d) GATT |
- (a) 1-c, 2-d, 3-a, 4-b
(b) 1-d, 2-c, 3-b, 4-a
(c) 1-b, 2-a, 3-c, 4-d
(d) 1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-c

49. Match the following:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. Garhwal | (a) Starvation deaths |
| 2. Kalahandi | (b) Caste violence |
| 3. Bara | (c) Earthquake |
| 4. New Delhi | (d) International Publishers' Conference |
- (a) 1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-c
(b) 1-c, 2-a, 3-b, 4-d
(c) 1-a, 2-b, 3-c, 4-d
(d) 1-d, 2-a, 3-c, 4-b

50. Aurora Borealis is the:

- (a) Atmospheric electricity
- (b) Largest satellite
- (c) Largest star
- (d) Nearest star

51. Artesian wells are found in:

- (a) Igneous Rocks
- (b) Sedimentary Rocks
- (c) Metamorphic Rocks
- (d) None of these

52. Which of the following projects is the joint venture of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka?

- (a) Nagarjuna Sagar
- (b) Telugu Ganga

- (c) Dakshin Gangotri
- (d) Silent Valley

53. Amongst the oil refineries in India the largest and the smallest refineries are located in:

- (a) Bombay, Cochin respectively
- (b) Bombay, Guwahati respectively
- (c) Mathura, Digboi respectively
- (d) Barauni, Guwahati respectively

54. The Tropic of Cancer passes through:

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

55. Which of the following is the most densely populated State in India?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) West Bengal
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

56. Diamond Mines in India are found in:

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Madhya Pradesh ✓
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

57. The moon is called a satellite of the earth because

- (a) it is much smaller than the earth
- (b) it draws light from the sun via the earth
- (c) it revolves round the earth
- (d) it remains in position due to the gravitational pull of the earth

58. Which of the following statements CANNOT BE ascribed to Mahatma Gandhi?

- (a) Politics bereft of religion are a death-trap because they kill the soul
- (b) Cowards can never be moral
- (c) He who eats two grains must produce four
- (d) Man is born free but everywhere he is bound in chains

59. Diabetes is caused due to the malfunctioning of:

- (a) Liver
- (b) Kidneys
- (c) Pancreas
- (d) Spleen

60. The book 'Life Divine' has

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

been written by:

- (a) Sri Aurobindo
- (b) Swami Sivanand
- (c) Swami Vivekanand
- (d) Dr Radhakrishnan

61 Who amongst the following has written the *Panchatantra*?

- (a) Bhababhuti
- (b) Jaideva
- (c) Kalidas
- (d) Vishnu Sharma

62 'Operation Flood' is associated with

- (a) Flood Control
- (b) Dairy Development
- (c) Construction of Dams
- (d) None of the above

63 Goa, Daman and Diu were liberated from the Portuguese occupation in the year.

- (a) 1954
- (b) 1961
- (c) 1965
- (d) 1971

64 When is Great Britain due to

return Hong Kong to China?

- (a) 1998
- (b) 1997
- (c) 2000
- (d) 2001

ANSWERS

1. (c)
2. (a)
3. (e)
4. (b) (Sir John Marshall, Director General of Archaeology, declared in 1924 that a new civilization had been discovered in the Indus Valley by R.D. Banerjee in 1922.)
5. (d)
6. (c)
7. (c) and (d)
8. (a)
9. (c)
10. (d)
11. (c)
12. (a) (Mahavira's view was that God is "only the highest, the noblest and the fullest manifestation of all the powers which lie latent in the soul of man".)
13. (b)
14. (c)
15. (c) (Buddha did not care for wor-

ship and rituals.)

16. (d)
17. (b)
18. (d)
19. (a) (Permanent peace is not possible.)
20. (b)
21. (d) (There was also the system of excise licences.)
22. (a)
23. (b)
24. (c)
25. (c)
26. (c)
27. (e)
28. (c)
29. (a) (He is rightly called the Indian Einstein.)
30. (d)
31. (b) (There was not a single revolt during his reign.)
32. (a)
33. (c)
34. (b)
35. (a)
36. (c)
37. (d)
38. (d)
39. (c)
40. (c)
41. (b)
42. (b)
43. (d)
44. (a)
45. (d)
46. (b)
47. (d)
48. (a)
49. (b)
50. (a)
51. (d)
52. (b)
53. (c)
54. (b)
55. (b)
56. (c)
57. (c)
58. (d)
59. (c)
60. (a)
61. (d)
62. (b)
63. (b)
64. (b)

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Q. 1-9. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases in the passage are given in **BOLD** to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.

Once upon a time there lived a king who was very fond of clothes. Rather than attending to the problems of his subjects, he was always busy preparing new clothes for himself.

One day the king ordered his minister to have an **exquisite** robe made for him from the best weaver in the kingdom. The king wanted to use this new robe for the coming court procession. A smart young man came to know of the king's **ambition**. He went to the king's palace posing as the best weaver in the kingdom and agreed to weave a beautiful robe for the king. He told the king that the robe would be not only beautiful but also magical. Only the wise would be able to see it. The king was **delighted** to hear the young man's words and urged him to start his work.

The young man set up his team in the palace. He asked for gold, jewels, and silk thread, but only pretended that he was weaving. In fact, he was not going to make any robe. He only wanted to open the eyes of the king who had forgotten his duty towards his people. The minister came to enquire about the progress of the weaving work. He was forced to **admire** the non-existing robe for fear that he might be considered stupid. When the young man announced that the robe was ready, the king came and admired his imaginary robe for the same reason.

On the day of the court procession a large number of people **gathered** along the sides of the street. The king went in procession along the street half-naked but, nobody uttered a word. A little girl from the crowd shouted loudly that there was no robe on the king's body. One by one others also joined her. The king realized his folly. He gave up his pomp and show and started taking interest in the **well-being** of his subjects.

1. The king admired his non-existing robe for fear that _____.

- (a) he might lose his crown
- (b) he might be considered unwise
- (c) he might be considered a clever ruler
- (d) he might be considered unjust
- (e) he might displease the young man

2. The young man asked for gold, jewels, and silk thread in order to _____.

- (a) make it seem that he is going to weave the king's robe
- (b) distribute them among the poor people
- (c) use them for weaving a beautiful robe for himself
- (d) take them home for his own use
- (e) prepare a beautiful as well as magical crown for the king

3. The young man posed as the best weaver in the kingdom in order to _____.

- (a) make the king realize his mistake
- (b) attend the court procession along with the king
- (c) acquire gold, jewels and silk thread from the palace
- (d) gain entry into the palace and stay there
- (e) get rewards from the king

4. Which of the following statements is **TRUE** in the content of the passage?

- (a) The king spent considerable time in attending to the problems of his subjects.
- (b) The king told the young man to prepare a magical robe for him.
- (c) The young man pretended to be the best weaver in the kingdom.
- (d) The king ordered his minister to bring the young man to his palace.
- (e) The minister advised the king to put on a beautiful robe on the occasion of the

court procession.

5. The minister praised the non-existing robe because _____.

- (a) he did not want to discourage the young man.
- (b) he wanted to expose the vanity of the king.
- (c) he wanted to punish the young man.
- (d) he wanted the king to walk through the street half-naked.
- (e) he did not want to be called a foolish person.

6. People started shouting that the king had no robe on his body as soon as _____.

- (a) the king came out of the palace for the court procession
- (b) they saw him walking along the street, half-naked
- (c) the king came near the little girl who was standing on the street
- (d) the girl cried out that the king was without his robe
- (e) the king came near the people gathered along the sides of the street

7. The king ordered for a new robe because he wanted to _____.

- (a) attend a religious ceremony
- (b) identify clever people in his kingdom
- (c) walk through the street with a magical robe on
- (d) test the weaving skill of the young man
- (e) wear it on the occasion of a procession

8. According to the young man, the robe prepared by him could be seen only by _____.

- (a) the king
- (b) the little girl
- (c) the sensible people
- (d) the best weaver
- (e) the stupid people

9. Which of the following statements is **NOT TRUE** in the context of the passage?

- (a) The young man did not weave any robe for the king.

- (b) The little girl could not see the robe because she was not wise enough.
- (c) The young man told the king that only the wise people would be able to see the magical robe.
- (d) Both the king and the minister praised the beauty of the non-existing robe.
- (e) The king wanted his new robe to be woven by none other than the best weaver in the kingdom.

Q. 10-12. Choose the word which is most NEARLY THE SAME in meaning as the word(s) given in BOLD as used in the passage:

10. well-being

- (a) future (b) condition
- (c) betterment (d) health
- (e) affairs

11. ambition

- (a) desire (b) proclamation
- (c) decision (d) plan
- (e) request

12. gathered

- (a) appeared (b) collected
- (c) presented
- (d) distributed (e) remained

Q. 13-15. Choose the word which is most OPPOSITE in meaning of the word given in BOLD as used in the passage:

13. exquisite

- (a) ugly (b) old
- (c) magical (d) cheap
- (e) expensive

14. admire

- (a) disagree (b) disapprove
- (c) disappoint
- (d) displease (e) dispute

15. delighted

- (a) disturbed (b) surprised
- (c) scared
- (d) uninterested
- (e) displeased

Q. 16-30. Read each sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. The number of that part is the answer. If there is no error, the answer is 5 i.e., no error.

16. The Central Government (1) accepted some of the (2) suggestions of the committee (3) regarding to this matter (4). No error (5).

17. One or the other (1) of those boys have been (2) throwing stones at (3) our pet dog (4). No error (5).

18. No sooner did I receive (1)

the urgent message when (2) I started contacting (3) my friends and relatives (4). No error (5).

19. Avinash is the most (1) intelligent of all (2) the students studying (3) in this class (4). No error (5).

20. The students stopped (1) talking and shouting (2) as soon as the teacher (3) entered the classroom (4). No error (5).

21. Neither Usha nor her (1) younger sister Uma were (2) present in the house when (3) Shobha went to meet them (4). No error (5).

22. It was her mother (1) who prevented her (2) from accepting the (3) job of a typist (4). No error (5).

23. Police succeeded in (1) recovering the (2) stolen idol after (3) a thoroughly investigation (4). No error (5).

24. Since it started (1) raining she decided (2) to not go out (3) for shopping (4). No error (5).

25. Had he been driving (1) his car carefully (2) he should have (3) avoided the accident (4). No error (5).

26. Although he is living (1) in this building for the last (2) ten years, he has not invited (3) any one to his house (4). No error (5).

27. I would say that (1) Kashmir is one of (2) the finest places (3) I has ever visited (4). No error (5).

28. The normal life of (1) the city was paralysed (2) on account to strong winds (3) and heavy rains (4). No error (5).

29. Scarcely had I (1) opened the gate of the (2) bungalow then I saw (3) a dog running towards me (4). No error (5).

30. The mother advised to (1) her child not to (2) play with the ball (3) inside the kitchen (4). No error (5).

Q. 31-40. Pick out the most effective word from the given words to fill in the blank to make the sentence meaningfully complete:

31. Rakesh is sure _____ getting a first class in the coming examination.

- (a) of (b) at (c) in
- (d) over (e) on

32. There was a huge _____ at the Airport waiting for the Prime Minister.

- (a) gathering (b) collection
- (c) people (d) rush
- (e) number

33. Neither Praveen nor Priya _____ present in the house yesterday.

- (a) were (b) did (c) are
- (d) was (e) had

34. Since Rakesh was not in his house, I decided to wait there _____ he came back.

- (a) unless (b) if
- (c) after (d) till
- (e) when

35. All the students _____ when the teacher entered the classroom.

- (a) arise (b) rose
- (c) rise (d) risen
- (e) arouse

36. Neelu was advised by her teacher to give more attention _____ her studies.

- (a) at (b) for (c) to
- (d) about (e) of

37. The patient was taken to the operation theatre since he _____ an operation.

- (a) needing (b) needful
- (c) needy (d) needs
- (e) needed

38. You may appoint _____ you think can do this work efficiently.

- (a) whatsoever
- (b) whichever
- (c) wherever
- (d) whenever
- (e) whomsoever

39. In the presence of a distinguished gathering, he was sworn _____ as the Home Minister.

- (a) at (b) off (c) over
- (d) on (e) in

40. Finally, he decided to do the work alone, _____ assistance from any one.

- (a) taking (b) without
- (c) except (d) against
- (e) devoid

Q. 41-45. Rearrange the following five sentences, A, B, C, D and E, in proper sequence so as to make a meaningful paragraph, then answer the questions given below them.

(A) He then gave me his address and invited me to his house.

(B) I asked him where he was staying.

(C) I happened to meet Arvind while returning from office.

(D) I also invited him to my house after giving my address.

(E) He said that he was staying near the railway station.

41. Which of the following should be the fourth sentence?

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
(4) D (5) E

42. Which of the following should be the third sentence?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
(4) D (5) E

43. Which of the following should be the first sentence?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
(4) D (5) E

44. Which of the following should be the last sentence?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
(4) D (5) E

45. Which of the following should be the second sentence?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
(4) D (5) E

Q. 46-50. In each sentence below, one word has been printed in **BOLD**. Below the sentence, five words are suggested, one of which can replace the word printed in bold, without changing the mean-

ing of the sentence.

46. The examination is going to **commence** on Monday.

- (a) continue (b) finish
(c) postpone (d) begin
(e) cancel

47. He **declined** to speak about the problem when I asked him.

- (a) refused (b) settled
(c) promised (d) agreed
(e) permitted

48. Gandhiji had **proposed** the path of non-violence.

- (a) adopted (b) accepted
(c) decided (d) suggested
(e) followed

49. The man looked at the poor boy with **contempt**.

- (a) jealousy (b) concern
(c) kindness (d) pity
(e) disrespect

50. I had to **disclose** the information due to some reasons.

- (a) suppress (b) expose
(c) review (d) discuss

(e) prevent

ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (a) | 3. (a) | 4. (c) |
| 5. (e) | 6. (d) | 7. (e) | 8. (c) |
| 9. (b) | 10. (c) | 11. (a) | 12. (b) |
| 13. (a) | 14. (b) | 15. (e) | |
| 16. (4) 'regarding this matter' | | | |
| 17. (2) 'has been' | | | |
| 18. (2) 'than' in place of 'then' | | | |
| 19. (5) | | 20. (5) | |
| 21. (2) 'was' in place of 'were' | | | |
| 22. (5) | | | |
| 23. (4) 'a thorough investigation' | | | |
| 24. (3) 'not to go' | | | |
| 25. (3) 'would have' | | | |
| 26. (1) 'although he has been living' | | | |
| 27. (4) 'I have ever visited' | | | |
| 28. (3) 'on account of' | | | |
| 29. (3) 'when I saw' | | | |
| 30. (1) 'to' is not required. | | | |
| 31. (a) | 32. (a) | 33. (d) | 34. (d) |
| 35. (b) | 36. (c) | 37. (c) | 38. (e) |
| 39. (e) | 40. (b) | 41. (1) | 42. (5) |
| 43. (3) | 44. (4) | 45. (2) | 46. (d) |
| 47. (a) | 48. (d) | 49. (e) | 50. (b) |

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TEST OF REASONING—I

Find the odd-man out:

1. (a) GDFH (b) SPRT
(c) AXZB (d) KJLM
2. (a) MKNP (b) DBEG
(c) RPSU (d) VTWZ
3. (a) FECB (b) ONKJ
(c) UFRQ (d) ZYWV
4. (a) NJMK (b) YUXV
(c) UPTQ (d) HDGE
5. (a) GFDA (b) QPNK
(c) SRPM (d) YWUR
6. (a) YBDW (b) XCUE
(c) PKMN (d) VEGT

Words in the following questions have certain relationship. Mark your answers:

- A. If one is the product of another
B. If one is the cause of the other.
C. If one belongs to the other
D. If one is opposite of the other.
E. If both belong to the same category.

7. Volga : Brahmaputra
8. fungus : penicillin
9. solar system : Mars
10. pain : sprain
11. land : state
12. doubt : surety
13. moment : time
14. strain : fatigue
15. typhoid : cancer

According to a certain code:

- + Means is bigger than
= Means is equal to
× Means is smaller than
% Means is not equal to

Now study the relationship between given units and tick-mark (✓) the right answer.

16. C and D + A; B × D ∴ A ? B
(a) A + B
(b) A × B
(c) A + B
(d) Can't say
17. A and C + B and C; A + D ∴ B ? D
(a) B + D
(b) B + D
(c) B % D
(d) B × D
18. A and B + C and D; D + B ∴ C ? A
(a) C × A

- (b) C + A
(c) C + A
(d) Can't say

19. A + C; C × B; (B + C) + D ∴ A ? D
(a) A % D
(b) A + D
(c) A + D
(d) Can't say

20. (B and D) + A; (A and B) + C ∴ C ? A
(a) C + A
(b) C + A
(c) C × A
(d) Can't say

If first thirteen letters of the alphabets were written in their proper order but leaving space between each two so that one more letter could fit in...A—B—C—D then the gaps were filled in with the remaining thirteen letters in their regular order, ending with Z...

21. Which would be the sixth letter from the beginning?

- (a) F (b) O
(c) P (d) Q

22. Which letter would be between 20th letter from the beginning and ninth letter from the end?

- (a) J (b) V
(c) U (d) H

23. Which letter is third to the right of 15th letter from the left?

- (a) S (b) V
(c) E (d) H

Find out the missing number:

24. 45; 46; 48; 51; ...; 60.
25. 1; 1; 1; 2; 4; 8; 3; ...; 27.
26. 3; 6; 12; 6; 12; ...; 12; 24; 48.
27. 7; 9; 13; 21; 37; ...
28. 15; 23; 29; 34; 43; ...; 32; 51.
29. 6; 9; 12; 18; 18; 27; ...; 36.
30. 5; 9; 14; 23; 37; 60; ...

Numbers in the following questions have certain relationship. Your task is to tick-mark the answer with similar relationship:

31. 12 : 144
(a) 10 : 140
(b) 15 : 135
(c) 22 : 464
(d) 20 : 400
32. 75 : 57
(a) 45 : 64
(b) 132 : 231
(c) 81 : 49
(d) 16 : 64

33. 27 : 9
 (a) 729 : 81
 (b) 64 : 8
 (c) 125 : 5
 (d) 135 : 15

34. 7 : 24
 (a) 11 : 43
 (b) 19 : 58
 (c) 23 : 72
 (d) 30 : 100

35. 324 : 162
 (a) 64 : 36
 (b) 22 : 10
 (c) 134 : 112
 (d) 2 : 1

36. In word **OBLIGATION**, interchange the places of 1st letter with 2nd, 3rd with fourth, 5th with 6th and so on and then write the whole set in reverse order. Which letter would be seventh from left?

- (a) L (b) I
 (c) G (d) T

According to a certain code:

'Mohan needs reliable security' is 1, 2, 3, 4.

'Security guards shall arrive' is 4, 5, 6, 7.

'Mohan will arrive tomorrow' is 3, 5, 8, 9.

'Reliable guards will reach' is 2, 7, 8, 10.

37. What is the code for 'guards'?

- (a) 5 (b) 6
 (c) 7 (d) 8

38. According to this code, 'Security needs attention' will be:

- (a) 2, 4, 11
 (b) 1, 4, 11
 (c) 4, 5, 11
 (d) 5, 6, 11

If according to a code, 'HUMAN' is 'MZLTG', decode the following:

39. CMTNE

40. DBMHR

41. If following words were arranged according to dictionary, which would be the fourth word from the beginning?

- (A) respect
 (B) respond
 (C) rascal
 (D) reptile
 (E) reject

42. A family photograph consists of mother, father, son, daughter-in-law and daughter and son-in-law.

All ladies in the photograph appear on the right of their husbands.

Mummy and Daddy are not on any extreme end and their son and daughter are not near them.

Who is fifth from the right?

- (a) son
 (b) son's wife
 (c) daughter
 (d) daughter's husband

43. The total age of John, Salim, Rohit and their boss

in years is 136. If you add John's and Salim's age, it is the age of the boss. If digits of John's age are reversed, you get Rohit's age. Rohit is 3 years older than Salim who is 6 years older than John.

What is the age of Rohit?

- (a) 29
 (b) 32
 (c) 35
 (d) 30

Five officers Sethi, Thawani, Mankad, Anand and Prasad are posted at Poona, Hyderabad, Gwalior, Bombay and Dalhousie but not in the same order. Your task is to match the right parts on the basis of the statements given.

Mankad and Anand are not posted at Hyderabad or Gwalior.

Thawani and Prasad are not posted at Bombay or Dalhousie.

Sethi and Anand are not posted at Bombay or Poona.

Prasad is not posted at Poona nor Sethi at Hyderabad.

44. Sethi (A) Poona

45. Thawani (B) Hyderabad

46. Mankad (C) Gwalior

47. Anand (D) Bombay

48. Prasad (E) Dalhousie

Seven villages A, B, C, D, E, F and G are situated as follows:

A is two miles to the south of D.

C is one mile to the north of E

F is between D and B (exactly in the middle).

G is two miles to the east of C.

A is two miles to the east of E.

B is one mile to the east of F

49. Which two villages are the farthest?

- (a) B and E
 (b) C and A
 (c) F and E
 (d) B and G

50. How far is G from D and in which direction?

- (a) 1 mile—east
 (b) two miles—north
 (c) 1 mile—south
 (d) one mile—west

Two subjects from Economics, History, Geography and Political Science have been offered by Abhay, Beena, Chandra and Dhruv. Each student has opted for two subjects and each subject has been opted by two students only. Study the statements given below and write the letter of the combination against the name of the student.

- A. Economics and History.
 B. Economics and Geography.
 C. Economics and Political Science.
 D. History and Geography.
 E. History and Political Science.
 F. Political Science and Geography.

- 51 Abhay ☐
 52 Beena ☐
 53 Chandra ☐
 54 Dhruv ☐

A team of 4 is to be selected from A, B, C, D, E, F and

G.

- A and B cannot be together
 D and G must be together
 F and B cannot be together
 E and G must not be together
 C and B must be together
 F and E must be together

- 55 The final team will be
 (a) ABCG (b) BCDF
 (c) AEFG (d) BCDG

In a colony of 118, there are two men less than women and two boys more than girls. There are 54 more grown-ups than boys and girls.

- 56 How many women are there?
 (a) 52
 (b) 49
 (c) 47
 (d) 44
- 57 How many boys are there?
 (a) 21
 (b) 17
 (c) 22
 (d) 20

In following questions, A, B, C and D have a certain

relationship with the lead word but one of them is slightly different from the others. Your task is to tick-mark this odd-man.

- 58 INDIVIDUAL
 (A) DIVIDE
 (B) INDIAN
 (C) LADY
 (D) DENTAL
- 59 COMPONENTS
 (A) MOUNT
 (B) PACE
 (C) NOUN
 (D) SONNET
- 60 AESTHETIC
 (A) SHELTER
 (B) CHEATER
 (C) CHANT
 (D) THIEF
- 61 GENERAL
 (A) RANGE
 (B) NEVER
 (C) LARGE
 (D) AGE
- 62 RESPECTABLE
 (A) CABLE
 (B) STALE
 (C) REPEAT
 (D) TABLE

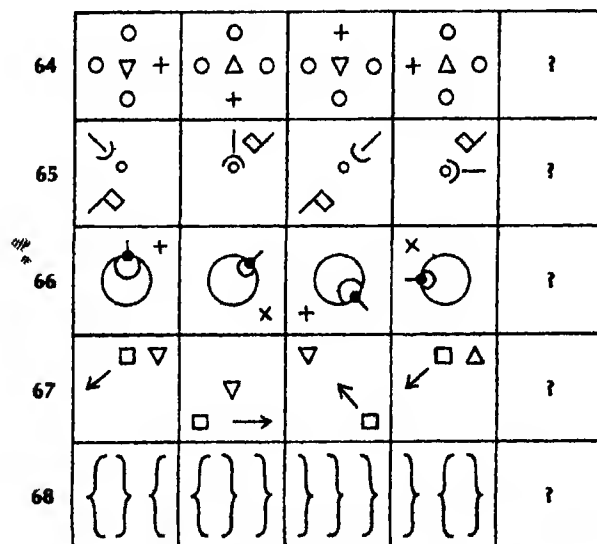
63 In a group of children, Mona is 6th from the top and 11th from the end. The number of children in the class is

- (A) 15 (B) 16
 (C) 17 (D) None of these

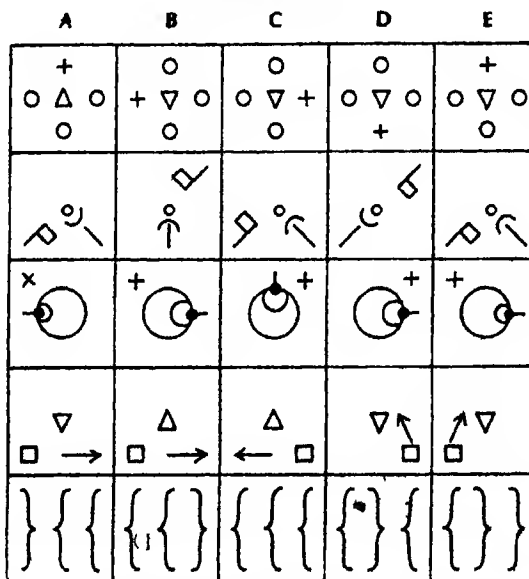
NON-VERBAL SERIES

Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures marked A, B, C, D and E. You have to find out which of the answer figures would be the next one if the series continued.

PROBLEM FIGURES



ANSWERS FIGURES



69					?
70	(d)	(f)	(g)	(h)	?
71					?
72					?
73					?

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- 1 (d) 2 (d) 3 (b) 4 (c)
 5 (d) 6 (b) 7. E 8. A
 9 C 10 B 11. C 12 D
 13 C 14 B 15 E 16 (c)
 17 (a) 18. (a) 19 (d) 20. (b)
 21 to 23 ANBOCPDQERFSGTHUIVJWKXLY
 MZ
 21. (c)
 22. (a)
 23 (b)
 24. 55. The numbers have difference of 1, 2, 3, 4, ...
 25 9 The series is $a, a^2, a^3; b, b^2, b^3 \dots$
 26 24. Numbers are in sets of $3-x; 2x; 4x \dots$
 27 69 Go on adding 2; 4; 8; 16; 32. . to numbers.
 28. 92. The digits of first five numbers are reversed in the next set.
 29. 24. There are two series alternately arranged, 6, 12, 18 . and 9, 18, 27, 36...
 30. 97. Each number is the total of its two preceding numbers.
 31. (d) The relationship is $x : x^2$
 32. (b) The digits are reversed.
 33. (a) The relationship is $x^3 : x^2$
 34. (c) The relationship is $x^2 : (x \times 3) + 3$
 35. (d) The relationship is $2x : x$
 36. (a) The arrangement being ONTIGALIOB
 37. and 38. Match common words with common numbers.
 37. (c)
 38. (b)
 39. and 40. Code the letters with preceding letters in the alphabetical order and reverse them.
 39. FOUND 40. SINCE 41. A 42. (b)
 43. (b) 44. C 45. A 46. D
 47. E 48. B 49. (a) 50. (c)

51. C 52 B 53. D 54. E
 55 (d) 56. (d) 57. (b)
 58. D. The word has two letters E and T which are not in the lead word, others have one only.
 59. D. All the letters are from the lead word, others have one letter which is not from the lead word.
 60. A. The word has two out-siders, others have one.
 61. B. It is the only word with an out-sider.
 62. C. In other words, letters from the lead word have been used without changing order.
 63. B
For answering non-verbal questions study the movement or changes in each figure separately.
 64. B. Triangle tilts alternately, the '+' sign moves clockwise, skipping one step extra each time.
 65. E. Flag goes to diagonal corners, the other figure goes round changing alternately.
 66. D. The movement of the main figure is clockwise with inner circle getting bigger and smaller by turns. Plus sign tilts and moves along four corners.
 67. B. Square has anti-clockwise three point movement pointed by arrow and triangle covers another three points.
 68. A. One bracket changes direction by turns.
 69. A. Circle changes place and the figure has one arm extra.
 70. C. Bracket and figures are added according to a definite pattern and when one set is complete, the figure in the centre turns upside down.
 71. D. Circle and square change direction and have anti-clockwise movement, the third one right and left.
 72. B. One line changes by turns.

TEST OF REASONING—II

ODD-MAN OUT

Find the odd-man out:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. (a) biscuits | (b) chocolate |
| (c) cake | (d) pastry |
| (e) bread | |
| 2. (a) bus | (b) tram |
| (c) train | (d) engine |
| (e) trolley | |
| 3. (a) moon | (b) orange |
| (c) mango | (d) ball |
| (e) pearl | |
| 4. (a) winter | (b) autumn |
| (c) warm | (d) spring |
| (e) summer | |
| 5. (a) raid | (b) assault |
| (c) ambush | (d) attack |
| (e) defence | |
| 6. (a) chair | (b) crow |
| (c) cow | (d) stool |
| (e) leopard | |
| 7. (a) skirt | (b) blouse |
| (c) trousers | (d) pantaloons |
| (e) shorts | |
| 8. (a) Bhopal | (b) Chandigarh |
| (c) Agra | (d) Patna |
| (e) Calcutta | |

ANALOGIES

Words in questions given below have certain relationship. Tick-mark the choice with similar relationship:

9. teeth : chew
 - (a) cheek : complexion
 - (b) read : write
 - (c) head : brain
 - (d) hammer : break
10. missile : arms
 - (a) school : education
 - (b) millet : grain
 - (c) factory : production
 - (d) aeroplane : sky
11. hair : wool
 - (a) sugarcane : sugar
 - (b) cloth : yarn
 - (c) furniture : table
 - (d) silk : cotton
12. wrestler : arena
 - (a) cricket : pitch
 - (b) teacher : students

- (c) dancer : stage
- (d) doctor : operation

13. elevation : depression
 - (a) pain : medicine
 - (b) stupidity : intelligence
 - (c) fatigue : exhaust
 - (d) metre : yard
14. dreams : sleep
 - (a) dew : night
 - (b) pillar : building
 - (c) studies : examination
 - (d) shelves : library
15. tiger : deer.
 - (a) crow : bird
 - (b) black-board : school
 - (c) pollution : environment
 - (d) pen : pencil

Tick-mark (✓) the right relation on the basis of the statements given.

□ means son of

Δ means daughter of.

() means wife of.

= means husband of.

|| means brother of.

% means sister of.

16. B is %A; A is □ C and B is Δ D, then

- (a) C is Δ D
- (b) C is () D
- (c) D is || C
- (d) C is % D

17. D is not □ B; C is () B; A is □ C and || D, then

- (a) D is Δ C
- (b) D is = C
- (c) D is || C
- (d) D is % C

Among five children, D is taller than E but shorter than B and C is shorter than A who is not as tall as E.

18. Who is the tallest?

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D
- (e) E

19. If the children were made to stand according to height, the tallest being the first, who would be the fourth one?

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D
- (e) E

20 Mr Gupta started from point S, he drove for two kilometres towards east, then turned right and drove for another three kilometres, he again turned right and went one more kilometre, then he turned left and drove for one kilometre and finally turned right and drove one kilometre and reached his destination 'D'

How far is D from S as the crow flies?

- (a) $\sqrt{2^2 + 2^2}$ kms
- (b) $\sqrt{2^2 + 3^2}$ kms
- (c) 4 kilometres
- (d) 5 kilometres

A nine kilometre long circular road has been chosen for an 18 kilometres long walk. A and B started from a definite point in opposite direction at a speed of 5 k.p.h. and 4 k.p.h. respectively.

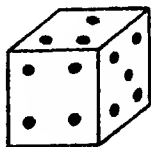
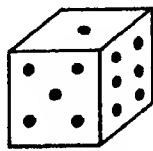
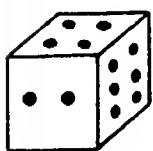
21 When would they both meet? (Time in hours & minutes)

- (a) 80 minutes
- (b) 90 minutes
- (c) 1 hr
- (d) 75 minutes

22 How far would they be from the starting point when they meet again?

- (a) 2 kms
- (b) 1 km
- (c) 4 kms
- (d) 3 kms

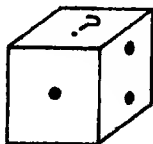
Given below are three positions of the same dice. Study them and answer the questions that follow:



23 What number is opposite '2'?

- (a) 1
- (b) 3
- (c) 5
- (d) 6

24 What number will replace question mark?



- (a) 3
- (b) 4
- (c) 5
- (d) 6

Tick-mark the right choice to fill in blanks in questions given below:

25 a-acab-caba-aba-a
(a) bcbcb

- (b) cabb
- (c) cbc
- (d) bacc

26 ab-baa-cba-bcba-bcb

- (a) cbaa
- (b) ccba
- (c) acbb
- (d) baca

27 ab-b-cbacba-ba-cabcb

- (a) caba
- (b) acbc
- (c) bccb
- (d) cbbb

28 b-cacab-bac-cabab-ca

- (a) abac
- (b) aaac
- (c) aaaa
- (d) bbac

Tick-mark the mirror image of the following words:

(29) EXACTLY

- (a) YJTCAXE
- (b) EXACTLY
- (c) YJTCAXE
- (d) YLTCVXE

(30) FATHER

- (a) 9ATH3F
- (b) 93HTAF
- (c) FATH3F
- (d) FATHAF

SYLLOGISM

TYPE I

In questions given below, a statement is followed by implications I and II. Mark your answers

- (a) if only I is implicit
- (b) if only II is implicit
- (c) if both I and II are implicit
- (d) if either I or II is implicit
- (e) if neither I nor II is implicit

Statement

31 An important topic discussed at an International Conference was the role of goat as an ecological agent

Implications

- I Goats of different species were present at the conference
- II Goats help in maintaining ecological balance

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

32. Some of the small screen stars are regular M.B.B.S. doctors.

Implications:

- I. Acting is one of the topics prescribed in the syllabus of medical science.
 - II. Acting is a hobby with some of the doctors.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

33. Buyers are very much impressed by the way an article is packed.

Implications:

- I. Attractive packing increases sale.
 - II. Consumers are not at all bothered about the quality of a well packed item.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

34. Scandals ruin a politician's life.

Implications:

- I. Public expects a clean record and clean life from their political leaders.
 - II. For people other than politicians, scandals do no harm.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

35. Jazz is popular with the new generation only.

Implications:

- I. The older generation prefers soft traditional music.
 - II. The new generation is fond of loud boisterous music.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE II

In questions given below, a question is followed by probable answers I and II. Tick-mark (✓) your answers:

- (a) if I is enough to answer the question.
- (b) if only II is enough to answer the question.
- (c) if both I and II are needed to answer the question.
- (d) if either I or II is sufficient to answer the question.
- (e) if neither I nor II are sufficient to answer the question.

36. Who is A's brother?

- I. B is sister of A.
 - II. C is B's brother.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

37. Who is shortest among A, B, C and D?

- I. B and D are of the same height.
 - II. A is taller than C who is shorter than D.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

38. How many volumes of this particular encyclopaedia have been published?

- I. The public library has just bought seven volumes.

II. A college library has nine volumes.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

39. Who among A, B, C and D was caught by the police?

- I. B was out of station while A and D hid in a thick forest.
- II. A ferocious looking dog chased C for quite a distance.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

40. Why was the publication of the local newspaper stopped?

- I. It wasn't upto standard hence no one liked to buy it.
- II. The paper could not get sufficient supply of paper nor a good staff.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

41. What is the patient suffering from?

- I. The patient was admitted to hospital for certain tests.
 - II. The patient has a cyst which is malignant.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

42. Where is the city X exactly situated?

- I. X is situated on the banks of the river Ganga.
 - II. It is 82°E and 31°N.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE III

In questions given below, statements 1 and 2 are followed by conclusions I and II. Taking the statements to be true although they may appear at variance with the commonly accepted facts, tick-mark your answers as under:

- (a) Only I follows.
- (b) Only II follows.
- (c) Both I and II follow.
- (d) Either I or II follows.
- (e) Neither I nor II follows.

Statements:

43. 1. All rocks are pebbles.
2. All pebbles are bricks.

Conclusions:

- I. All bricks are rocks.
 - II. All rocks are bricks.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements:

44. 1. Some cups are glasses.
2. All glasses are spoons.

Conclusions:

- I. Some cups are spoons.
 - II. Some glasses are not cups.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements:

45. 1. All players are tall.
2. Some tall persons are fat.

Conclusions:

- I. No player is fat.
- II. Some players are fat.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements:

46. 1. Some children wear ornaments.
2. Some ornaments are artificial.

Conclusions:

- I. Some children wear artificial ornaments.
II. Some ornaments are real.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements:

47. 1. Most of the people sleep by 11 P.M.
2. All thefts take place after 1 A.M.

Conclusions:

- I. Thieves sleep from 11 P.M. to 1 A.M.
II. Houses of people who do not sleep at 11 P.M. are safe from thefts.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements:

48. 1. All doctors are shy.
2. Santosh is shy.

Conclusions:

- I. Santosh is a doctor
II. Santosh is not a doctor.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements:

49. 1. All papers are black-berries.
2. Some black berries have red spots.

Conclusions:

- I. Some papers have red spots.
II. Some black berries are not paper.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements:

50. 1. Only those buildings are pink which are not blue.
2. Only some blue buildings have windows.

Conclusions:

- I. Pink buildings do not have windows.
II. Some blue buildings do not have windows.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE IV

In questions given below, a situation has been explained in a few sentences followed by a conclusion. You have to say whether the conclusion:

- (a) necessarily follows from the statements.
(b) is only a long drawn one.
(c) definitely does not follow from the statements.
(d) is doubtful as the data provided is inadequate.

Note: Your answers should only be in the light of the statements given.

Statements:

51. 1. Satyajit Ray was awarded the Oscar while he lay critically ill in a hospital.
2. As a tradition, the avenue for such awards is beautifully decorated.
3. There is a cultural programme as well.

Conclusion: The whole hospital was beautifully decorated and a cultural programme was arranged as well.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

52. 1. Government appoints special committees to investigate controversial matters.
2. The Government decisions are based on the report of the concerning committee.
3. The govt has ordered for a certain construction to be demolished.

Conclusion: The Committee appointed for investigating this matter recommended demolition of the construction.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

53. 1. Madam X, a leading politician accused Mr Y, a minister, of insulting her while on an official tour.
2. Mr Y does not belong to Madam X's political party.

Conclusion: The accusation of Madam X against Mr Y was a political stunt.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

54. 1. Legal notices have been sent to Pakistan television authorities for violating International Copyright Act.
2. The notice was sent by the Asian TV Service of the B.B.C.

Conclusion: The Pakistan TV used some of the B.B.C. programmes to serve its purpose without prior permission.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

55. 1. Victims of mental stress often become short-tempered.
2. Mahendra is short-tempered by nature.

Conclusion: Mahendra is under some mental stress.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

56. 1. Sophisticated drawing-rooms are often adorned with rural motifs.
2. Rural artists are very simple people.

Conclusion: The owners of these drawing-rooms have very simple taste.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

TYPE V

In making decisions about important questions, it is desirable to be able to distinguish between strong arguments and weak arguments so far as they are related to the question. Weak arguments may not be directly related to the question, may be of minor importance or may be related to some trivial aspect of the question. Each question given below is followed by two arguments numbered I and II. You have to decide which of the arguments is strong and which is weak; then decide which of the answers given below and numbered (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) is the correct answer.

- (a) Only I is strong.

- (b) Only II is strong.
- (c) Both I and II are strong.
- (d) Either I or II is strong.
- (e) Neither I nor II is strong.

57. Are proposals to convert one of the uninhabited islands of the Andamans into gambling heaven for tourists a wise choice?

- I. Yes, it would bring in a lot of foreign exchange.
 - II. No, the environmental wealth and isolated beauty of these islands would be destroyed.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

58. Does dress consciousness add to personality?

- I. Yes, dressing up in suitable style for the right occasion gives confidence and weightage to personality.
 - II. No, a dress conscious person is unable to concentrate on his/her job or other responsibilities.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

59. Can an outsider solve a family problem?

- I. Yes, a much respected outsider to whom the whole family listens, usually puts forward the right solution.
 - II. No, the members must reach to the root of the problems themselves and then find out the right solution.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

60. Do bank-strikes affect the general public?

- I. Yes, taxi drivers and rickshaw-pullers earn less as business is paralysed.
 - II. No one has extra money to deposit everyday, hence the general public is not affected.
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE VI

A private company wants to recruit some guards. The qualifications are as follows:

The candidate must be a citizen of India.

The age of the candidate should be between 25 to 35; however if the candidate is an ex-policeman, the General Manager will recommend him to the selection committee even if he is 40. For ex-army men, the age limit is 45 but the recommendation would be by the Security Officer. If the candidate was awarded Vir Chakra during his service, the General Manager can relax his age upto 50 years.

The height of the candidate should be five feet and six inches or above. In case of Vir Chakra holder there is no limit regarding height.

The candidate should be at least Higher Secondary but for Vir Chakra holder, academic qualification is no bar.

On the basis of data given below, mark your answers as under:

- A. The candidate is directly selected.
- B. The candidate is selected on the recommendation of the Security Officer.
- C. The candidate has been recommended by the General Manager.

D. Information is not sufficient so the application is not entertained.

E. The candidate is rejected

61. Inder is 28, his height is 6 ft and 1 inch; he has passed Higher Secondary Examination in first division.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

62. John is a citizen of India. He is 27 years old, his height is 5 feet and 8 inches and he has passed Higher Secondary Examination.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

63. Kaushal is 5 ft. 9 inches, he is a citizen of India, is 32 years old and has passed B.A.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

64. 48-year old Laxman is 5 ft 4 inches, he is an ex-army man and received Vir Chakra for his services. He is a citizen of India and failed in High School twice.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

65. Mahendra, a citizen of India, passed B.A. He is an ex-army man and is 31 years old.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

66. A Vir Chakra holder ex-army person Naresh is 52 years old. He is a citizen of India and a science graduate. His height is 5 ft 8 inches.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

67. An ex-policeman, Omkar is 39 years old, has a height of 5 ft 7 inches. He is a graduate and a citizen of India.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

68. 38-year old Prakash, a citizen of India, is 5 ft 6 inches. He is a graduate and an ex-policeman.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

TYPE VII

In questions given below, Assumption A is followed by Reasons RI and RII. Apply RI and RII to A and tick mark your answers as under:

- A. Only RI is the reason for A.
- B. Only RII is the reason for A.
- C. Both RI and RII are reasons for A.
- D. Either RI or RII is the reason for A.
- E. Neither RI nor RII is the reason for A.

69. A. In construction work, women workers are paid less than men labourers.

RI. Men need more money than women.

RII. Women do not fight for their rights.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

70. A. People in villages usually live in mud houses.

RI. Mud houses are very cool.

RII. The villagers are too poor to afford stone and brick construction.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

71. Employees in big cities start from home well in time yet get late sometimes.

RI. They are often caught in traffic jam.

RII. Bus services at times are not very punctual.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

72 A Candidates get nervous when they face the interview board

RI They are not well-prepared

RII They know they shall be harassed by the members of the Board

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

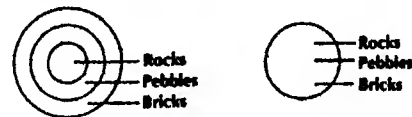
ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- 1 (b) All the others are baked items
- 2 (a) All the others move on tracks
- 3 (c) All the others are spherical
- 4 (c) All the others are seasons
- 5 (e) All the others are forms of attack
- 6 (b) It is the only one with two legs, others have four
- 7 (b) It is the only one that one wears above waist
- 8 (c) All the others are capitals of States
- 9 (d) It is the item and its function relationship
- 10 (b) The relationship is that of a particular item and the general category to which it belongs
- 11 (a) One is made from the other
- 12 (c) The relationship is that of performer and the place of performance
- 13 (b) The words are opposites
- 14 (a) One takes place during the other state
- 15 (d) Both are different items of the same category
- 16 (b)
- 17 (a)
- 18 (b)
- 19 (a)
- 20 (c)
- 21 (c)
- 22 (b)
- 23 (c)
- 24 (a)
- 25 (d) The series is ab/ac/ab/ac/
- 26 (a) The series is abcba/abcba/ab
- 27 (d) The series is abcb/bcba/cbab First letter becoming the last one in the next set
- 28 (c) The series is baca/caba/baca/caba
- 29 (c)
- 30 (b)
- 31 (e)
- 32 (b)
- 33 (a)
- 34 (a)
- 35 (c)
- 36 (c)
- 37 (e)
- 38 (e)
- 39 (a)
- 40 (d)
- 41 (b)
42. (b)

The next set of questions is best answered by drawing

diagrams of all probabilities and then reach a fool-proof conclusion

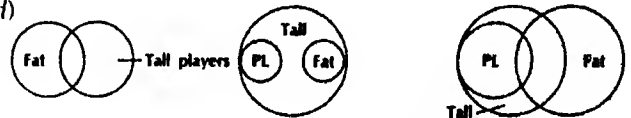
43 (b)



44 (a)



45 (d)



46 (b)

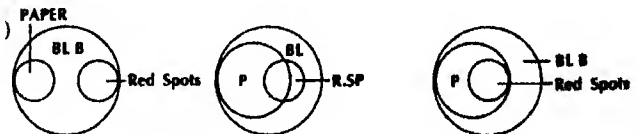


47 (c)

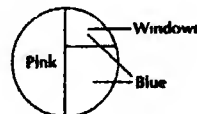
48 (d)



49 (c)



50 (c)



51 (b)

52 (a)

53 (d)

54 (a)

55 (c)

56 (c)

57 (b)

58 (a)

59 (c)

60 (e)

61 D

Information about nationality is lacking

62 A

All qualifications are fulfilled

63 A

The candidate possesses all the required qualifications

64 C

The candidate was awarded Vir Chakra hence 'C'

65 D

Height of the candidate is not mentioned

66 E

The candidate is above 50

67 C

Ex-policemen are recommended by the G M

68 C

Same as above

69 E

70 B

71 C

72 E

Improve Your Word Power

- 1 **arrogate:** (a) donate (b) defend (c) offer (d) assume
- 2 **behest:** (a) behaviour (b) emotion (c) orders (d) request
- 3 **comatose:** (a) fast (b) sleepy (c) feast (d) developing
- 4 **disquisition:** (a) report (b) explosion (c) motion (d) progress
- 5 **exculpate:** (a) finish (b) enjoy (c) speak (d) free
- 6 **forage (v):** (a) travel (b) fly (c) research (d) search
- 7 **gloss (v):** (a) rest (b) treat (c) refer (d) console
- 8 **hitch (v):** (a) fasten (b) obstruct (c) relieve (d) flow
- 9 **idyllic:** (a) idle (b) notorious (c) peaceful (d) noisy
- 10 **limbo:** (a) depression (b) recession (c) neglected (d) height
- 11 **niffed:** (a) sad (b) annoyed (c) desperate (d) help

- ful
- 12 **nettle (n):** (a) explanation (b) definition (c) expulsion (d) irritation
- 13 **onus:** (a) duty (b) negligence (c) ignorance (d) invitation
- 14 **panegyric:** (a) pain (b) praise (c) protest (d) correction
- 15 **ruminate:** (a) shirk (b) shrink (c) expand (d) think
- 16 **subaltern:** (a) sub-standard (b) begging (c) inferior (d) sharp
- 17 **trigger:** (a) cause (b) propose (c) engage (d) suppose
- 18 **vapid:** (a) vital (b) dull (c) priceless (d) virtuous
- 19 **wallop:** (a) jump (b) fall (c) creep (d) hit
- 20 **xerox:** (a) produce witness (b) produce copies (c) imitate (d) describe

ANSWERS

- 1 **arrogate:** (d) assume, take, usurp
—No generation should be allowed to *arrogate* to itself the right to destroy the elements necessary for the survival of the next
- 2 **behest:** (c) orders
—The subversive forces are hell bent to create disorder in this country at the *behest* of their tutors across the borders
- 3 **comatose:** (b) sleepy, drowsy, coma
—While changes may be essential to revive a *comatose* economy, the man on the shop floor should not be forgotten
- 4 **disquisition:** (a) report/account (spoken/written)
—The judge ordered the investigating official to give a clear *disquisition* on the suspect's involvement in the crime
- 5 **exculpate:** (d) free/clear (from shame/charge)
—Almost everyone in India is trying hard to *exculpate* himself and shift the blame to someone else
- 6 **forage (v):** (d) search, hunt
—One group left the camp to *forage* for firewood and the other for water
- 7 **gloss (v):** (b) treat (briefly/incompletely)
—When the minister was grilled in the house he tried to *gloss* over the awkward facts of the case
- 8 **hitch (v):** (a) fasten, attach, hook
—The car that had met with an accident was *latched* on to a truck
- 9 **idyllic:** (c) peaceful, pleasant
—Rapid industrialisation has played havoc with the *idyllic* landscape of the countryside
- 10 **limbo:** (c) neglected, nowhere, uncertain
—The project must remain in *limbo* until the committee makes its decision

- 11 **niffed:** (b) annoyed
—She was a bit *niffed* that he had forgotten her name
- 12 **nettle (n):** (d) irritation, annoyance, vexation
—In order to impart clarity and coherence to India's nuclear policy, the nuclear *nettle* has got to be grasped
- 13 **onus:** (a) duty, responsibility
—The *onus* of setting right the economic mess in the country lies on all of us
- 14 **panegyric:** (b) praise (in writing/speaking)
—We are used to hearing only *panegyrics* about our leaders from those who constitute the government
- 15 **ruminate:** (d) think (deeply), ponder, meditate
—The meeting was called to *ruminate* on recent events in the sub-continent
- 16 **subaltern:** (c) inferior rank, subordinate
—Most Third World countries are so dependent for arms, credit and technology on the West that they are in danger of turning into *subalterns*
- 17 **trigger:** (a) cause, set an action
—The consumerist culture has *triggered* off increased atrocities on women
- 18 **vapid:** (b) dull, uninteresting, lifeless
—The speaker used pompous expression but his discourse proved *vapid* in the extreme
- 19 **wallop:** (d) hit, thrash, defeat (in contest/match)
—The miscreant was thoroughly *walloped* by the people before being handed over to the police
- 20 **xerox:** (b) produce copies
—I got my university degrees *xeroxed* before applying for the job.

Problems of Poverty and Illiteracy

INDIA is a land of paradoxes and nowhere else in the world are they so prominent and pronounced as one finds them here. Despite stupendous strides in the fields of science and technology, agriculture and industry, the country continues to face a host of challenges and chagrins like the spectre of pounding poverty and ignominious (shameful) illiteracy. Even after having executed seven Five Year Plans, statistics roll out frightening facts and hair-raising figures of nearly 40 per cent people living below the poverty line and about 50 per cent population unable to read and write.

According to the National Sample Survey Data, the proportion of the people below the poverty line did not go down between 1983-84 and 1986-87 despite large expenditures incurred by the government on anti-poverty programmes. Close to 50 per cent continue to be poor, about 20 per cent of them not having even two square meals a day. There is no doubt that inflation and perverse income-policies of the regime are cutting into the pockets of the vast poor, and are thus defeating even the trickle-down effects of anti-poverty programmes. The pursuit and promotion of elitist consumerism in this situation seems to be not merely inappropriate but also grossly vulgar. On the literacy front also the picture problem is too depressing and disgusting to be allowed to go untackled for long.

India is today the world's largest producer of illiterates and child labourers. Eighty-two million children between the ages of six and fourteen—half the Indian children in

this age group—do not attend school. They do not have to since primary school education is not compulsory. Between 1961 and 1981, the total number of adult illiterates in India increased by 5 million per year from 333 to 437 million. Other developing countries have done far better than India in this regard. The literacy figures of Indonesia (74%), China (73%), South Korea (90%), to name a few, should stifle us to take a fresh look at the menace of increasing illiteracy among our masses, particularly women, and take result-oriented steps to stem the rot if we really mean to break the tortuous triangle of illiteracy, population and poverty by the turn of this century.

Demographers and planners hold the onslaught of burgeoning population as the vicious villain of the unfolding drama of the absurd where, despite the ushering in of the Green Revolution, the upward moving finger of exploding numbers has rendered most of our marching steps on the road to economic progress and prosperity an exercise of minus cancelling plus, leading to social tensions and political instability. The tricky triangle of illiteracy, population and poverty feeding and breeding on each other without remorse and respite, is getting more and more distorted every day and like a nightmare it is staring us in the face with irksome implications, the contours of which are highly bizarre and bewildering.

There are many reasons why birth rates are affected by improved welfare. The spread of education con-

tributes to the motivation for reduced family size. Education and literacy make information about birth control techniques more accessible. More important changes which occur in the values of educated persons, as they learn to question traditional practices of their parents, affect their attitudes toward family size. The correlation between small family size and female education is particularly high, as women gain independent social status, they become increasingly active outside the home and are inclined to limit family size as a result.

Only when a large portion of a national population gains access to modern social and economic services—such as education, health, employment or credit for modern farming/self-employment techniques—are reductions in poverty figures/levels of those reeling under malnutrition and mal-treatment likely to follow. In countries which follow development policies that result in a relatively equitable distribution of health and education services and provide land, credit and other income opportunities, the cumulative effect seems to be that the poorer half of the population is vastly better off than it is in countries with equal or higher levels of per capita Gross National Product (GNP) but poor distribution patterns. Policies that bring health, education and meaningful jobs/job-opportunities to lower income groups can at the same time contribute toward reducing/alleviating poverty and accelerating further economic growth, and can thus provide a solid base on which to build future development.

policies. These policies, when combined with large-scale, well executed family planning/welfare programmes should make it possible to stabilize a country's population much more rapidly than reliance on mere publicity/populism alone

A recent study by the Operations Research Group (ORG), covering 83,000 households of urban and rural India, provides depressing details for planners and politicians to ponder over to know where we went wrong during all these decades of 'meticulous planning and excellent execution'. Education for all is still a distant dream. Rural India continues to lead in the illiteracy stakes. Nearly half of the chief wage earners of rural households are still illiterate, thereby almost automatically ensuring that their families stay firmly trapped in the poverty prison. In the case of women, the educational profile is even worse. Of the nearly 14 crore households estimated to exist in the country, 8.6 crore households have an illiterate housewife. The cruel link with poverty is even more apparent here, since fully 91 per cent of the illiterate house-wives come from households falling below the poverty line. Nearly one-third of the world's hungry live in India. Estimates of the total number of hungry people in the world ranges from 50 to 100 crores (Report by The Hunger Project).

"The growth in literacy rate over the past decade is perhaps the most significant development in India's socio-economic history after independence." For the first time in the country's history more than half the country could claim to be able to read and write. (Census 1991). As social scientists pour over the figures, all kinds of inferences are being drawn as to the impact of this spread of learning/literacy on life-styles attitudes and consumption behaviour of the masses. The fact that Kerala, which has the highest literacy rate in the country, also has the highest ratio of females to males in the population, has been sought to be projected as one of the major beneficial fallouts of

literacy, since a better educated population tends to be less prejudiced towards female offspring. Also there is definitely a link between literacy and life style, specifically the consumption patterns of the individual. Consumption levels increase with the education level of the chief wage earner (Dr N. Bhaskara Rao of Operations Research Group). "Investment in education is investment for development and economic welfare." This axiom has been successfully put into use in the ASEAN countries and the results are there for all to see and emulate. No longer the peoples of these countries fall victims to empty promises and electoral rhetoric but engage themselves in fruitful economic activities, the inspiration for which comes solely from their educational institutions, both liberal as well as technical.

The International Literacy Year (ILY) as declared by the UN General Assembly, enjoins upon the UNESCO the role of lead organisation to combat illiteracy. The year is intended to give a shot in the arm to the literacy promotion drive to ensure that illiterate youth and adults receive instructions in reading, writing and other basic skills. ILY provides an opportunity to the governments, and countless individuals, groups and organisations to increase their efforts for promoting public awareness of the damage done by illiteracy, mobilisation of resources, finding the commitment and creativity to confront the problem of illiteracy and to launch new educational initiatives. The Prime Minister of India launched ILY on January 22 with a provision of about Rs 40 billion to help 80 million illiterate adults in the age group of 15-35 to become literate by 1995 and to enter the twenty-first century with total literacy in the country.

Who can refute the fearsome fact that evils, such as superstitions, blind faith, bigotry, extravagance on rusted rituals and rites, child delinquency, drinking and drug addiction, woman beating *et al*, are some of the dark

shadows that rise like the odious odour from the stinking pool of illiteracy and aggravate the already suffocating strangle-hold of poverty on the sufferers, who are 'born poor, live poor and die poor'. But such is not the hopeless and hapless situation everywhere—even in some of the Third World Countries, where the torch of literacy has erased the ill effects of ignorance and silent suffering.

Since independence almost every step/measure, such as reservations, subsidies, doles, loans, food for work etc, has been tried but the phantom of poverty continues to haunt us in all its intensity and hostility. Now the "powers that be" have come to realise that without the elimination of illiteracy in the shortest possible time, removal of poverty shall remain a mirage. It is under this sordid scenario that a committee of the National Development Council on literacy has been set up. It is needless to reiterate that wherever literacy percentage has gone up, the economic level of the newly literate has proportionately gone up, proving it beyond doubt that the removal of poverty is inextricably linked with the removal of illiteracy. Any other course, long/short, would prove as futile and frustrating as so many other gimmicks or populist policies adopted so far

Enough has been said the world over to indicate that education is as essential to removal of poverty as democracy is to free education. Each (education & democracy) supports the other and is a power which each must have to survive. Education both sustains and improves society to the extent that it frees human mind to seek its highest level of expression. The conviction/compulsion (in respect of family-size) 'the more, the merrier' has to be discarded 'lock, stock and barrel'. Whatever the seers or saints, ascetics or astrologers may say, poverty is a scourge and illiteracy a stigma. In order to remove poverty among Indian masses, it is imperative and immediate to remove illiteracy first.

Fashion and Youth

TIME was when people used leaves, outer coverings of trees and skins of animals to protect themselves from the ravages of nature. Then came clothes. From clothes to fashion in clothes is not many steps. Tailors and drapers came on the scene first, followed by fashion designers. The meaning of the word 'fashion' extended to cover the way of dressing or behaving considered proper on different occasions. Fashions were no longer static. The term indicated popular styles of clothes, behaviour etc prevalent at a given time or place. They now change from time to time and are born and reborn after hibernation like animals which go into long sleep and then become active again.

William Shakespeare was right when he said in 'Hamlet' 'The apparel oft proclaims the man'. All philosophers down to ages have believed in this. It is also believed that uniformity of dress subdues one's thinking. We often see how the uniformity of prisoners' attire helps in suppressing their rebellious urges and takes out the lion's spirit out of them. Napoleon, Hitler and Mussolini understood the importance of dress and created special wear for their followers to set them distinct and create in them a feeling of superiority through the particular styles.

Fashion is said to be the plague of wise men and idol of the fools. Whenever fashion is talked of, youth cannot be far off. They must feel, swim, or sail with the fashion wave. They brook no constraints, fear they would be ostracised or isolated for their lapses. Youth is for the mod style. If loose garments are in vogue, they must go in for loose trousers, kameezes, skirts, blouses or sarees. They must conform. If necklines plunge, they must stoop to the folly. If hemlines rise, their skirts must go shorter. If sleeves disappear, they

must obey. Modest or immodest, whether it be psychedelic shirts or swanky T-shirts, one must do as Romans do. Dress styles are meant to attract attention. They must do something to overcome their identity neurosis. Their dresses reflect the age and the state of the wearer and express their personality, manners, character and their way of living. Youth is the gay time, the time of enjoyment, of making merry, and sporting gay attire is in keeping with it.

Particular urges of youth become outdated after a time. They must change and our young friends are quick to identify themselves with the succeeding trends. Time changes. With this ideas, trends and values also change. If the youth conforms to the old traditions and values, they will never be able to usher in changes which lead to the growth and development of civilisation. But at the same time let no one forget that it is the old ideology and thinking that forms the basis which set the wheel of new creative innovative ideas in motion.

Youth and fashion symbolise contemporary values in time. Their outlook varies in every generation. Ideas too change, however slow the pace. Humanity changes its attire, but not its temperament. With the passage of time, science and technology bring in new innovations, but our outlook, approach, point of view, conception and understanding remain the same. Our fashionable attitudes and values represent us. They are an index of our thinking and our approach to life and its various issues.

Time was when fashion trends were set by the film world, or by youth in quest of identity. Now it is the fashion designers who rule the roost. There are schools which have dress designing as a part of their cur-

riculum. Their job is to teach these new styles in men's and women's wear, the theory and practice of it. Innovations apart, old fashions revive periodically. Setting the hair in the ancient Indian or Greek fashion is now, for example, getting into vogue.

If our youth rebel or yield place to new fashions, it is not a matter to deplore. Youth has a right to be heard. But time was when youth were opposed tooth and nail and called names for their mania for change, or their desire to be different or their tendency to revolt and flout what was established. We recall Socrates talking foul of Greek youth when they tried to flaunt new styles of dress and behaviour. We also remember how Addison and Steele in the 17th century and early 18th century England criticised youth for such proclivities. But it has always been so. In our own time, too, we come across whole lots of people who do not agree with the professional creators of fashion.

All the attitudes of fashion come alive with the cult of changing times. It is not only the contribution of the fashion-designers, rather it is the need of the world. Fashions run parallel with the events or happenings of the day. By looking at dresses, any keen observer may predict the oncoming events and the times ahead. Long skirts, *inter alia*, symbolise difficult times while short skirts tell us of the time of affluence and prosperity. Tight belts announce puritanical and stoic tendencies and attitudes, high hair-styles are in fashion when regimes are about to collapse. In other words, clothes symbolise an era because they concretise everything. Pace Rebhann predicts that the clothes of 21st century will not be sewn, but premoulded, bound or welded. These will express freedom. He regrets present century's conventional clothes as forms of punishment.

MODEL PARAGRAPHS

"Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding."

Albert Einstein

War is a curse that visits mankind due to the arrogance of power-hungry rulers whereas peace is a blessing that comes about as a result of humility and human considerations. Peace forced on the vanquished by the victor on the latter's terms and conditions seldom survives the severe tests of harassment and humiliation heaped on the loser. It takes no time to force a war on the unsuspecting but the same high-handedness does not hold water if we want to force peace on sufferers on our terms. Only that peace is durable and dear that has been achieved with good-will and gentility. Peace pushed down the throat is neither desirable nor dependable. If war is the obsession of a few, peace is the passion and prayer of all. What water is to the fish, peace is to progress and prosperity. No doubt peace has its own glories, thrilling and thumping, edifying and exulting for whose establishment mutual understanding and trust are as imperative as sun-light is for all living creatures.

"If you cannot think about the future, you cannot have one."

—John Galsworthy

Uncertainties of future are as true as the vagaries of weather. Both expect us to be in a state of maximum alert, physical as well as mental. Since the drama of life is shrouded in mystery and mirage, we should leave nothing to chance. Not even in imagination should we allow ourselves the luxury of not thinking about the future on the plea that whatever is to happen must happen. The fatalist's view of

future is not only illogical but also irrational. The dreams of the future are woven in the present and any move made in haste or thoughtlessness is bound to mar the shape of things to come. Since much of the composition of the future lies in human hands, it is but natural that we give due thought and consideration to its evolution. Each one in his own way should think about the future and its possible profile so that we are not caught napping for want of sufficient preparation and cool-consideration in the living present.

"Genius is knowing where to stop."

—J W Goethe

Like Dr Faustus (Faust) in whom the genius like a genie keeps looking beyond all human limitations and tries to capture the powers of a super-being, the result is no better/worse than self-torture and spiritual sterility. To seek, to find and to achieve is man's inherent urge but to know the secrets of gods and peep into their godly domains is surely to invite the fury of the unknown and the invisible. Excess of everything, even knowledge, which is the natural offshoot of a genius, may prove as venomous as the sting of a serpent. The wise know where and when to stop so that the head-long search does not become a seething turmoil of self-decadence and self-destruction. In the name of knowledge, if one were to run after magical powers, like Dr Faustus, the end is too horrendous to imagine. It is not only the self that splits but also it breeds annihilation of all creative faculties within. To maintain a happy balance between passion and pursuit, possession and partaking is the golden path embellished with the gems of wisdom and fragrance

of knowledge. A human personality in a state of motion and momentum (intellectual) must know when to stop otherwise it will consume itself into ash and thus fail to enjoy the real fruit of swing and sway of life.

"The history of liberty is the history of resistance."

—Woodrow Wilson

Liberty of thought and belief, movement and action, has always remained dear to human heart and soul. Unlike labour it is indivisible though not absolute. The history of mankind is full of instances where men with sheer grit and determination have fought against the evil forces of repression and reprisals. Denial of liberty to men and then their inhuman exploitation by the crafty rulers, whether in the name of religion, empire-making or economic/military supremacy are not the nightmares of the past only but they are very much the *raison d'être* of those who wish to keep the less fortunate under their thumb and control even today. 'Vigilance is the price of liberty' and watchfulness is the reiteration of human trust in the never dying instinct of feeling free and acting freely. The despot and his ilk are always on the look-out of some pretext or the other to use his subjects as dumb-driven cattle and thus rule the roost and make a mince-meat of those who submit and surrender before his masked make-up and monstrous mien. No ruler has ever offered the gift of liberty to the people on a platter, however generous or genial he may appear to be. A bird in a golden cage and a bonded human being in a palace, are both victims of captivity, however glamorous and glittering their condition may sound.

J & K to the Polls?

Indications are that elections will be held in Jammu and Kashmir very shortly. In fact, the Union Home Minister made a statement to this effect recently. Would elections be advisable in the Valley in the present conditions? The proposition for discussion is, "In view of the grave implications of a poll exercise in Jammu and Kashmir at the present juncture, it would be inadvisable to hold elections there in the near future."

Mr A Sir, the proposal to hold elections in J & K appears to be sound but the law and order situation in that State is so disconcerting that there are grave dangers of holding such an exercise. Elections were held in Punjab in February this year and extensive military arrangements had to be made to ensure a free and peaceful poll. Even then the turn-out was so low that the State Assembly cannot be described as representative of the people of Punjab. Over three-fourths of the electorate did not vote. If elections are held in Kashmir, the same story may be repeated and consequences are likely to be serious. For one thing, the entire Valley is in the grip of fear. The writ of the Government, or whatever goes by that name in many parts of the Valley, simply does not run. There has been no end to the activities of the terrorists aided and abetted by Pakistan which, apart from political interference, has been exploiting the religious feelings of the people. The fear of the gun and bomb blasts is still pervasive in the area. The Government has been consistently following a policy of flushing out the terrorists. Its efforts have been only partially successful; moreover the number of mischief-makers actually flushed out seems to make no difference. It is a small part of

the total tally of militants. More and more terrorists have been recruited and trained across the border and then sent to the Valley to indulge in subversive acts, kidnap prominent people for ransom or to secure the release of some of their terrorist friends. What is the point in holding elections if the general atmosphere is one of intense anxiety? In case (as is highly probable) the percentage of voting is low (the same as in Punjab, the exercise would be self-defeating. Obviously, if the proposed poll is reduced to a mockery and if the new ministry to be formed in the troubled State is not at all representative of the people, the Centre would find itself in a very awkward position. As a result of strict military patrolling and other measures in the Valley, there are at times some signs of normalcy, but these turn out to be temporary. These quickly disappear and the all-too-familiar depredations reappear. To a persistent demand by the people's chosen representatives for holding elections to local bodies in Ladakh, where there is virtually no terrorists' violence, the Union Home Minister said it would be worthwhile to have the Assembly poll before the elections to local bodies. Besides, the Home Minister himself conceded that the fear of the gun is still pervasive in the Valley. That apparently is one reason why the Government does not intend to send a goodwill delegation to create the requisite atmosphere there. Efforts are however being continued to strengthen interaction with the common people and to have regular consultations with political leaders and prominent personalities to recommence the democratic process. But past experience has shown that such efforts prove abortive. The people in general have lost confidence in the

Government's ability to ensure full protection to life and property of the Kashmiris and others living in the Valley.

Mr B While the validity of some of the arguments put forth eloquently by my predecessor, Mr A, may be conceded, there are certain aspects of the situation that need to be stressed. I submit that the Government of India is continually getting a bad name for denying the people of Kashmir their political rights such as the right to exercise their franchise, choosing their own representatives and having their own ministry instead of the prolonged period of Governor's rule. The longer the State is kept under Governor's rule, the more the criticism of the Government of India in foreign countries and at the United Nations. At present there is no worthwhile political activity in the Valley. The present set-up is undeniably undemocratic, even though the intentions of the Government in New Delhi are honest and designed to create an atmosphere of peace and normalcy. It is futile to talk of democracy and claim to be fulfilling the commitments for popular rule in the State if elections are not held even after such a long period. For the past many months the various political parties have not been functioning in the State. Dr Farooq Abdullah and his National Conference are nowhere to be seen. The Congress Party, now led by Mr Narasimha Rao, still exists though its activity is at the minimum. Whatever activity it can claim to have is confined to the Jammu area. Elections are a "must" if this party is to have some roots in the Valley. Generally, most political parties become active only when elections are

imminent; so if elections are announced now, political activity will begin despite the apathy of the people, especially the majority community, the Muslims. Many people will take the plunge into politics if the army and the police ensure them and all members of their families security of life and property. The Government have sent large units of Indian Army and other security personnel to the Kashmir Valley. Surely they are not so ineffective that they cannot ensure safety and adequate protection to those carry on electioneering and visit the polling booths if and when an election is ordered. A cynic has said that some negative and undemocratic forces might also become operative to bring people to the polling booths. For instance, it might be religion. Pakistan has been exploiting religion as a factor to carry on anti-Indian propaganda. The slogan "Islam in danger" might be raised by the fanatics, but the fact that there is quite a large number of sane and sensible people in Kashmir should not be forgotten. At present they are lying low, but if there is a proper atmosphere and if measures are taken to restore public confidence in the administration, they might come out into the open. Some of these people might have to pay a heavy price for their courage (getting killed by the terrorists' bullets), but it has been pointed out by public analysts that when the stakes are high, the loss of a few lives would be worthwhile. Besides, it would be relevant to recall that the early fears of full-scale violence in Punjab during elections proved baseless. If full precautions are taken in the Valley, that is, if an adequate number of armymen are posted near the polling booths so as to prevent booth capturing and other malpractices, without interfering with the process of voting in any way, a satisfactory polling percentage can be assured. It is also worth noting that most people of Kashmir are fed up with the ter-

rorists who have disrupted normal life in Kashmir, ruined the tourist trade and also rendered jobless thousands of workers engaged in indigenous, cottage industry.

Mr C Sir, the argument that the Central Government should follow the Punjab precedent and arrange elections in J & K in the next few months with the expectation that it would yield good dividends is, I am afraid, not quite convincing. Would elections be worth having if the majority of the voters keep away from the polling booths? In fact my fear is that under the fear of the gun and the bomb and the terrorists' threats of large-scale destruction of life, the vast majority of the electorate, even more than the Punjab figure, would not venture out of their houses on election day. The polling staff would also be in great danger, much greater danger than the staff posted in Punjab election booths had to face. Many people would lose their lives. The poll enthusiasts who contend that the loss of some lives would be a small price to pay for the holding of elections and thus conforming to the democratic practice are not on unassailable ground. If the elections turn out to be a farce and also involve much loss of life, these would not be a worthwhile exercise. In many ways the terrorists are more active in J & K than in Punjab. Where are the erstwhile political parties of Jammu and Kashmir? They seem to have disappeared because, according to close observers, they would be total misfits in the existing environment of violent secessionism. Are there grounds to hope that the killers and the kidnappers would vanish from the election scene and leave the field clear for the Congress, the National Conference and the B.J.P.? Some years ago, the elections held in Assam were described as the "bloodiest in India's post-independence history". J & K would probably create a worse record, with terrorists kidnapping and kill-

ing recklessly with active help from across the border.

Mr D Sir, in my view, if elections are held in Kashmir and if a popular ministry is formed without undue pressure and interference, India would have a scoring point in the eyes of the vast international community which appreciates every step taken to promote democracy and restore the people's political rights. In due course the people also begin to feel more secure. There may be some who would continue to be cynical and suspicious, but sooner or later they would feel that if they remain out of the national mainstream while several others march forward, they would stand to lose. I would also like to mention that in a move to initiate the political process in the State the Government on March 30 this year released five top political leaders of Kashmir. They had been arrested soon after the eruption of militancy in the Kashmir Valley early in 1990. Observers feel that the Valley's traditional political leaders will become active. According to reports, some underground organisations have already started constituting their political wings. The first to do so was the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front. Some factions of the banned People's League have announced their merger and identified their political leadership. It is also significant that several members of the Rajya Sabha recently urged the Central Government to consider holding elections in J & K. They suggested that the Government should explore the possibility of opening a dialogue with the militants within the framework of the Constitution. Central rule in the State has several limitations and cannot by itself resolve the tangle in Kashmir. Only a popular government can solve the problem. Of course the present administration should not take hurried steps, because the people of the Valley stand alienated from the Government of India. The people's hearts should be won before elections are ordered so that a good number of them participate in the voting.

Trigger Your Own Spark

ONE of the greatest handicaps you might feel in the development of your personality is your inability to pull your own strings. In other words, you are being pulled about by others. You are a mere puppet. Naturally, you think that you are a victim of circumstances and that you are being used.

There is no need for depression or despair. You can stop being a victim. You can pull your own strings. In order to function as a free, non-victim, you have to look at yourself from a different angle and with complete objectivity. You have to learn to recognise the various situations in which your strings are being pulled. Your new attitude will involve much more than simply committing to memory a couple of positive assertive techniques.

It is possible to avoid life's victim traps without having to resort to victimizing behaviour yourself. In order to achieve this objective, it is important first of all that you should redefine your own expectations from yourself. But before you launch on this ambitious project, let's understand who is a victim. The simple definition of a victim is that he is out of control of his life. The most operative word is *control*. If you are not in the driver's seat, someone else is driving. If you are not in control, someone else is controlling. You are being manipulated. You are a victim.

A victim is essentially a person whose life is being run by the dictates, whims and fancies of others. Such a person often has to do things which if he were left to himself, he would not do at all. The person may sometimes be called to undergo hardship for the sake of others. He may be made to sacrifice precious things or feelings in order to appease others. Such actions are bound to

produce and multiply resentments. While a large number of forces are at work which tend to weaken your position, it should be borne in mind that nobody can really victimize you unless you allow yourself to be used as such. It is only a weak person who is dominated, pushed about and driven because he *thinks* he is not strong enough to pull his own strings.

Be a self-directed person

BE a self-directed rather than other directed person. Be strong enough to line your own life, rather than one who feels his worthlessness and spends his time dodging and turning, trying to please Tom, Dick and Harry re-modeling his personality repeatedly in his attempts to please, re-shaping his image of himself so often that he loses track of who he really is. Take tremendous care about your identity. Make sure that you are **YOU** and not somebody else. Be your own hero.

Personality can never develop unless the individual is faithful to the law of his being and chooses his own way consciously and with deliberation.

You will gradually discover that you are stepping out from your internal upsets. Once this is done, you are on way to eradicate victim-traps which have kept you down and out. This, however, does not mean that you must strive to have everything your own way. A judicious balance has to be struck.

In order to steer clear of victim-traps which heap frustration upon you, you can adopt a four-tier schedule to begin with: begin to look afresh at your system of attitudes; change your expectations from yourself; remind yourself that you were trapped in a victim syndrome; and adopt a new dynamic approach.

This programme can be successfully implemented only if you train yourself to take stock of situations in a correct and objective manner. Once you adopt this technique, you will find yourself developing a new intelligence which serve as a kind of bulwark against exploitation by others. Taking stock of the situations means not only keeping your eyes open but also having a set of plans and carefully carrying them out. *If one plan fails, instead of plunging into gloom, you should be ready to examine it objectively, prepare a new one and strive hard to implement it successfully.*

Once the blueprint of a plan has been prepared, plunge straight into its implementation without reservations. Here a word of caution is called for. It is not necessary to invest all your self-worth in its ultimate success or failure. You should be mentally prepared to change gears as and when necessary. It is no use getting emotionally messed up with your success or failure. *Whip up success or failure. Do not get whipped up.*

A person becomes what he expects to become. You will become a free, non-victim being if you expect that to become. To achieve this goal, you must begin to develop an attitude of expectation of fulness, happiness and success. Do not feed yourself on thoughts of being abused, misused. If you really think that you are being abused, misused, do not delay. Get out of the situation. Before you take a step in this direction, measure up your real capabilities. Do not be misled by wrong notions about yourself. Do not be duped by your potential foisted on you by your exploiters. In this regard, you will do well to consider the following four fundamentals: physical capabilities, mental capabilities, emotional and social capabilities.

Physical: You cannot succeed unless you are physically fit. You can avoid being victimized by your attitudes or expectations about your own physical health. It is easy to feign illnesses and then pose as a victim. Avoid this. Successful people work through all handicaps. Mind is a powerful factor. Let it rule the body.

Mental: Do not be misled by small talk of small people. Instead think that there is a spark of brilliance in you. You have to light it. Genius is nothing but the ability to spark your own fire. It is up to you to consider yourself either a vast field of dull gray matter or a brilliantly cultivated genius who can illumine any subject. The choice is yours.

Emotional: Your emotional genius goes hand in hand with physical and mental genius. It all depends on the kind of expectations you have from yourself. A person who wants to be tense, depressed, anxious and ill, becomes exactly that. One who wants to be fully functional, avoids this. He succeeds.

Social: If you expect yourself to be a social flop, nothing can help you. You will be one. You have seen extremely awkward people with no social grace. They are the manifestation of their inner selves. You have seen graceful, charming ones. They too are the outward form of their inner forms. Again, the choice is yours.

Adjust to change

A healthy, plus self-image implies that each day you adjust to the changing conditions in your world—external and internal. Learn to live with change. As Dr Maltz observes, "If you do not adjust, you disable yourself—physically and mentally. You succumb to inertia; you surrender your creative life forces."

To foster a dynamic plus self-image, accept change as inevitable, even if you dislike it. Once you accept change as the inevitable condition of being human, you will tend to welcome it. Remember, change is the very stuff of life. If you don't change, you would stay precisely as you are. There would be no growth, no life,

nothing. Learn to welcome change rather than to fear it.

Adjustment or adaptation is the way in which you fit into your world or niche, i.e., cope with reality. Its opposite is maladjustment or maladaptation. When we adapt to our niche, we are happy, productive and having rewarding relationships with other people.

Be enthusiastic

To develop a healthy self-image means to be a person of enthusiasm who sees the bright side of things, who feels like a winner in any situation and who chooses a life style that vibrates with a zest for living. Be enthusiastic about life. Self-actualized people are truly likers of life, and they wallow in it, getting out of it all that is possible for them.

Be enterprising

YOU reinforce your self-image through enterprise. You motivate yourself with goals, and enterprise manifests your desire to attain your goals. Each day, resolve to forge ahead towards enterprise away from passive emptiness—the opposite of enterprise. Give yourself appreciation every day. Giving yourself self-acceptance, giving yourself praise, you will be able to launch yourself forward into enterprises with enthusiasm and with a belief in yourself that you may make them successful.

Be decisive

LEARN to be decisive. Have the courage to make up your mind, the courage to take a stand. To be decisive you must be able to accept the bad with the good and keep going.

You move through indecision to decision when you think enough of yourself to accept yourself no matter what are the consequences of your actions. Then you can feel the capacity to be decisive.

Eliminate the fear of the past failures and the need to be perfect. Don't wallow around in your past. You are what you choose today, not what you have chosen before. The past is a bucket of ashes. As for perfectionism, it means paralysis. If you

have perfect standards for yourself, you will never try anything and you won't do much since perfect is not a concept that applies to human beings.

Have faith in yourself

TO strengthen your self-image have faith in yourself and your potentials in all circumstances. See failure as part of life. Failures are inevitable, but never consider yourself a failure. Bring your success drives into play to counteract failure drives. It would be egregious folly to equate your self-worth with your failures.

Play ball with your self-image

IT is vital to play ball with your self-image. Give yourself a break; especially when you are behind. When you make a mistake, stop telling yourself how miserable you are as a person. Learn to forgive your human imperfections. Stop opposing your positive qualities by harping on your weaknesses. "Be human with yourself; and play the ball with yourself."

Cultivate self-esteem

FOR the development of a strong, positive self-image, cultivate in yourself a feeling of self-esteem. "Those who have self-esteem are willing to face any task. Those who do not have it can be slain by midgets." Poor self-esteem can be toned up in two ways:

1. Never blame yourself for anything. Always separate action from yourself. Criticise your actions if you like but never run yourself down because you have performed badly.

2. Take a risk. Don't be afraid of making mistakes. Progress is built on mistakes. "The person who does not make mistakes does not learn." The greatest batsman can score a century in one innings and a duck next time. Separate performance from yourself. See yourself as a fallible human being who is not a saint and who occasionally will do badly!

Be willing to risk a failure in order to succeed.

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29/4/92
Dear Reader,
As the country is in a state of confusion and the youth is looking for academic degrees and the implicit frustration caused by the inadequacy of suitable jobs have been deplored by numerous elders, including the best brains the country can boast of.

At present a student has to spend 12 years in school, then at least three years for a degree. Thus at the age of 20 or 21 he enters the university for post-graduate studies. Is the practice of spending so many years on purely academic studies really in the interest of the youth and of society in general?

The craze for degrees in due course leads to a demand for lowering the academic standards. These demands are accepted in many cases under pressure. Long years of experience have shown that the graduates who just scrape through swell the ranks of the unemployed or are able to secure only clerical or other minor jobs. Their sorry plight leads in due course to agitations on various counts, and these are wasteful exercises.

That is why employment experts and others stress the importance of vocational courses and competitive examinations which provide opportunities to ambitious youth for career building. Notable success in these examinations is not easy to achieve. Those who devote themselves to studies with earnestness emerge on top and bring credit to all concerned. They help to maintain good standards. Being keen as ever to see young men and women reach the top of the ladder, we would like to supplement the counsels of those whose right to speak on this matter is beyond question.

*With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,*

S. P. Khanna

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INDIA-U.S. CONFLICT

The recent Indo-U.S. conflict has been beneficial to India in many ways. It has helped us to realise the need for a reappraisal of our foreign policy and also reconsider our stand on the country's economic problems. Perhaps the most significant trend it has unleashed is a demand for making India self-reliant, particularly in the spheres of food and defence.

People who rely on their own strength and knowhow to help themselves cannot be held in bondage for long. Conversely, a nation which, though free, depends on other nations for anything it needs, whether it is food, weapons or machinery, would always be subject to pressures, and, as a result, stands perpetually in danger of losing its freedom. It would be wholly wrong to believe that we can become completely self-sufficient now or in the near future. It is, therefore, obvious that we cannot hope to ban all imports for all times.

Our dependence on other countries for food exposes us to unhealthy political pressures. Therefore, we should strain every nerve to make ourselves self-sufficient at least in respect of food. We can do so by increasing production, reducing consumption and eliminating waste.

Berhampur

Miss Bindu

The Special Feature-II (May '92 issue) reflects the aggressive and rigid form of nationalism of the U.S.A. whose policy is harmful to the cause of world peace and universal amity. All the wars that have wrought worldwide destruction and done much damage were the direct outcome of this aggressive, narrow spirit. It violates the noble principles of unity and equality among mankind. It has created bitterness among nations. The Government of India is right in refusing to change the stand on the N.P.T.—that it would never compromise the country's national interests.

In the U.S.A. the people have fabulous wealth; on the other hand, in India millions of people can hardly make both ends meet. How can the people of these two countries evolve a united outlook? For evolving a sound international outlook, it is necessary to halt the armaments race and end the craze for military adventures must cease. Only a politically peaceful and economically balanced world can evolve a truly international outlook.

Berhampur

Miss Sahila Nayak

INDIA UNDER PRESSURE

With reference to your cover feature "NPT: India Under Pressure" (June '92)

it would be pertinent to mention that the sanctity of the treaty has been defiled since its very inception. The countries which evolved and propagated the treaty have been increasing their own nuclear weapons and further improving the technology and efficacy. Not only that China signed the NPT after achieving a Nuclear breakthrough. So this should be the criterion for signing the treaty. India may also sign it after being at par with the big powers so far as nuclear proficiency is concerned.

Durgapur

Biswarup Bhattacharya

TURMOIL IN KABUL

This refers to your editorial "Fragile Peace in Kabul" (June '92). The contents of the editorial are convincing in the present situation in the war-torn Afghanistan. The war between the Mujahideen and the erstwhile Government caused heavy damage. The sentiments and faith of the people in the political set-up of Dr Najibullah were badly shaken. The USA and Pakistan supplied arms to the Mujahideen to fight against Dr Najibullah who was supported by the erstwhile USSR. His regime was never allowed to become stable.

The disintegration of the USSR might be the main cause of the fall of Najibullah. The people of Afghanistan should not be left alone to the mercy of the rebel groups. They need moral support. India and NAM can play a vital role in resolving the Afghan tangle.

New Delhi

Cpl Pravir Kumar

Once again the U.S. and Pakistan have shown that they are well ahead of others in duplicity and deceit. As long as they play power games in Afghanistan, normalcy will not return to that country. The Geneva Agreement, on which the whole world had pinned hopes, has been virtually shattered.

India can't be a mere spectator of the happenings in our neighbourhood. If our efforts bear fruit, we can boast of our achievement; if not, even then we have nothing to lose.

Mudanna

Nisha Tripathi

ROLE OF GOVERNOR

Your Special Feature-II (June '92) "Focus on Role of Governor" is highly informative. As Justice Sarkaria has stressed in his report on Centre-State relations, decentralisation of power is the need of the hour to sustain our federal democracy.

It is high time the Government took steps towards decentralisation of power by amending the Constitution. There should be elected Governors in the States in place of nominated ones. A veteran political leader, if elected to the high office of the Governor through an electoral college comprising MLAs and MLCs of the State concerned, would surely be able to uphold the dignity of the gubernatorial office besides strengthening the existing federal sys-

tem.

Bani

Pawan Kumar Sharma

Whether the Governors are heads of State or mere agents of the Centre to act according to set directives has been an issue for years. As there is no constitutional provision to act according to the dictates of the Centre, the Governors should function according to the Constitution as Head of State. Again, the Centre should not interfere unnecessarily and should not impose its wishes on the Governors. The Centre's action against Dr Thomas, Nagaland Governor, was highly unrealistic; he had acted under Art 174 of the Constitution which requires the Governor to act according to the advice of the Chief Minister.

New Delhi Prashanta Kumar Panigrahi

THE BUDGET

The Union Budget for 1992-93 is a revolutionary step towards refurbishment of the deteriorating Indian economy. The objections raised by the Opposition M.Ps, the fears expressed by them about the budget rationale and the loud criticism in Parliament were unfortunate. The whole episode reflects their failure to act as a constructive opposition and manifests their inability to discriminate between good and bad.

India today is not the India that used to be in the eighteenth century. We are now mature enough to be able to ward off any threat to our sovereignty. So we need not lend our ears to the baseless fears expressed by cynics. The Government's attempts to open up the economy should be hailed by one and all. Everybody should co-operate with the Government in its endeavour to lead the country towards prosperity.

Hajipur

Alok Kumar

ECONOMIC POSITION

Our planners have committed the greatest blunder since independence in not materially improving the economic condition of our villages. In India 75% of the people live in villages. If the rural people could be provided with enough fertilizer, water, better seeds and other facilities, they could do wonders in agriculture. We have highly skilled artisans in villages who could make impressive articles and register notable progress in cottage industries. But mafias, smugglers, black-marketeers and ruffians dominate many areas. That's why the rich are becoming richer and the poor poorer.

Calcutta

B.N. Bose

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your Objective-type questions feature. All these questions are very timely. Please continue this feature. All these questions are not merely for the U.P.S.C. examination but also for other administrative examinations.

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Itahra-Cherki

Naushad Khan

Scandal Upon Scandal

ECHOES of the Rs 1750-crore Bofors gun deal bungling are still being heard; the relevant probe has led the country nowhere because the real beneficiaries of the kickbacks and commissions have still not been identified. And now comes the shocking disclosures of a scandal of much greater dimensions and of more grave implications—the Rs 3,078-crore fraud perpetrated in the stock market through Harshad Mehta and his associates who, acting in collusion with senior bank officials, enriched themselves beyond measure in the course of a few months.

Few people, least of all the innocent citizens who placed full confidence in the Indian nationalised banks, could imagine that the entire banking system and the practices associated with it were full of loopholes which persons possessing the requisite technique and having good contacts could merrily exploit. Some idea of the gravity of the matter can be had from BJP leader L.K. Advani's description of it as "the most stinking scandal in free India which had gravely impaired the Government's credibility".

To add to the magnitude of the scam there is the disclosure that scores of people knew what was going on. Even the Reserve Bank of India officials had expressed in 1991 concern about the manner in which dealings in securities were being conducted. The regulatory agencies such as the Reserve Bank of India and the Securities and Exchange Board, which are supposed to keep a close watch over the functioning of the financial sector, have evidently failed in their vital duty. The sequel to their lapse has been the blatant flouting of laws and regulations.

Investigations into the stock market (which some clever and influential people fully exploited) by a Reserve Bank of India committee revealed that the total amount involved in the irregular transactions made by some leading banks and financial institutions aggregated Rs 3,078 crore. The committee gave details of the transactions and named the parties involved. The committee has made 15 major recommendations to prevent the recurrence of such malpractices. The Union Government has accepted the report. It has done well to initiate action in this astounding scandal. Several arrests have been made, raids on the premises of the principal suspects have been conducted and thorough enquiries are in progress in what is in essence a conspiracy of gigantic proportions.

On June 6 the President promulgated an Ordinance empowering the Government to attach movable and immovable property of any person involved in the offences thus committed. The Ordinance, described as the Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Ordinance, 1992, stipulates that a special court would be set-up for the trial of such offences. A Custodian has been appointed who can act promptly in taking charge of the assets thus acquired. Moreover, the Custodian has been given retrospective powers to cancel any contract or agreement entered into at any time after April 1, 1991.

The seizure of the assets of Mr Harshad Mehta, the alleged principal manipulator ("the bull") and of others' possessions, is expected to enable the Government to recover as much as possible of the bank funds which have been misappropriated through diversion. Speedy arrests and quick trials are of course welcome. But these are not enough. The basic malaise has yet to be tackled.

There must not be any cover-up of the scandal. The whole truth must come out and all those, especially the top-level functionaries of various banks and others who have played a key role through complicity and collusion, should be arrested and punishment awarded where called for.

What is at stake is not the crores of public money involved, or the future of the actors in the massive financial "loot" (or what amounts to "loot"), but confidence in the country's elaborate banking and financial system. Unless public confidence in the Indian banking system is speedily restored, people may turn away from the stock and share markets where the scam has taken place with unbelievable ease.

What would be the future of the financial system if public sector banks become suspect and cease to be trustworthy? The warning by some leaders that loss of faith in banks would mean a catastrophe is not to be taken lightly. In this process, a major lapse has been the failure of men at the top to own moral responsibility for the scam and quit their offices. In any other country there would have been prompt resignations without waiting for public censure.

Bofors Scandal Cover-up

Even five years after the Bofors gun deal, involving kickbacks, commissions and other underhand transactions, came to light, the truth has not become known. The culprits who are believed to have received large amounts for seeing the deal through remain unidentified. All the efforts made by vigilant M.P.s and scores of others to solve the mystery have proved fruitless. This lapse has lately been highlighted by Parliament and the media.

THE ghost of the Bofors gun deal continues to stalk the prestigious chambers of Parliament, and of the courts in India and abroad. Every Prime Minister promises to do the needful to uncover the scandal and bring to book the recipients of the huge commissions paid by the Bofors gun manufacturers. The promises and assurances have remained unfulfilled and echoes of the discreditable transaction are still being heard. Some cases are being conducted in the courts. Many people have begun to wonder whether, in view of the lack of results and the fading prospects despite the efforts, it would be best to bury the ghost and forget all about the unsavoury deal.

The scandal emerges in Parliament every now and then in one form or another and hundreds of precious hours of both Houses are eaten up by this issue. New twists to the matter are given when there is some disclosure or other, even minor ones, about it. Occasional leakages about secret funds create further confusion. The vigilant Opposition leaders in Parliament repeatedly accuse the Prime Minister and his colleagues of hiding the truth and even of assisting the cover-up.

The latest allegations have been made by Mr L.K. Advani, the present Leader of the Opposition, in the Lok Sabha on May 4 this year. He contended that the Prime Minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, a person of high integrity and spotless character, ap-

peared to be "assisting the Bofors cover-up". Mr Narasimha Rao made several assertions in Parliament in response to opposition allegations and challenges. Whatever he had said, Mr Rao asserted, was the truth and he was not hiding anything. But Mr Advani countered by saying that Mr Narasimha Rao might have told the truth but it was apparent that he had not come up with the whole truth.

For several days during the Budget session this year, Parliament was rocked by the controversial Bofors deal, leading to frequent adjournments and protests from the opposition groups. On April 22 a new twist was given to the matter by the Opposition which quoted a Delhi newspaper report to the effect that the Prime Minister himself was involved in the handing over of a note to the Swiss Foreign Minister at Davos (Switzerland) in February by former External Affairs Minister Madhavsinh Solanki.

Actually, by handing over to his Swiss counterpart a note (whose contents, he claimed, he did not know) from a lawyer of whose identity he was not aware—both strange contentions—he committed an act of glaring indiscretion. The indiscretion cost him his job. To this day the demands of the opposition for disclosure of the identity of the lawyer and the entire contents of the note are not known. This adds another dimension to the mystery.

The Prime Minister later denied any role in the matter and promised to lay the facts before Parliament. But the explanations for various points stressed by the opposition were not convincing. Mr George Fernandes, a Janata Dal leader, had full justification for demanding that the correspondence between the CBI and the Swiss Government on the Bofors issue be laid on the table of the House. But the Prime Minister's

replies to the detailed enquiries made by Mr Fernandes were evasive on several aspects. He contended that the correspondence could not be laid on the table of Parliament because he did not have a copy of the note given to the Swiss Foreign Minister.

Moreover, the Prime Minister added, the issue had been discussed in Parliament several times. Mr Fernandes expressed disappointment with the Prime Minister's reply and alleged that the Government had something to hide. Many people have urged the Government during the past few months to disclose all the facts and come out clean on the entire Bofors issue. These pleadings have borne no fruit.

The Prime Minister has, instead, taken shelter behind technicalities. Some quarters fear that even a straightforward Prime Minister such as Mr Narasimha Rao has lost a part of his credibility and the goodwill he had created during the past few months by remaining adamant and not taking Parliament and the general public into confidence on this vital matter. The note, he said, was unofficial and the Government had asked the Swiss authorities to ignore it. So it had become "inoperative".

The background: The contract for the supply of 150 mm Howitzer guns was signed by the Defence Ministry with Bofors, the leading arms manufacturers of Sweden, in 1987. The total amount of the contract was Rs 1750 crore, but there were conflicting reports about the quantum of the commission paid by the Bofors company. Initially, it was reported that the sum paid as kickbacks was Rs 50 crore. The Bofors team that came to India was reported to have said that the firm pays up to 12 per cent as commission. So the commission paid might have been as high as Rs 204 crore.

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Government of India appointed a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), comprising members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, to probe the matter and, in particular, to find out who the recipients of the huge commission were, whether other sums were also paid to get the contract and whether the prescribed procedures for fixing up such contracts were circumvented. Of course public interest lay in the expected disclosure of the names of the beneficiaries.

A top-level team of Bofors company visited Delhi later in 1987 and held lengthy discussions with the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The team merely revealed the names of companies which had been beneficiaries of the kickbacks. But the names of the individuals concerned were not disclosed because of the "imperatives of commercial confidentiality without which the Bofors company's future would be jeopardised".

The Parliamentary Committee, as was expected, gave a 100 per cent clean chit to the Government. The Committee's 400-page report, submitted on April 26, 1988, turned a blind eye to the realities. It stated that no kickbacks were paid to any Indian agent and that there were no middlemen in the deal. In fact, the committee had come to the conclusion that there had been no evidence of any misdeeds by anybody in the transaction. The procedure followed for the selection of the gun system was "sound and objective"; no extraneous influence or consideration such as kickbacks and bribes affected at any stage the evaluation of the gun systems or the commercial negotiations with the competing suppliers, it said.

On May 4, Mr Shiv Shankar, the then Union Planning Minister and chairman of the JPC, stated in the Lok Sabha that the "winding up charges" equivalent to Rs 64 crore paid by Bofors to three hollow companies in the gun deal had been ploughed back to the directors of the company itself. He felt sure about it and said that in India too everyone was familiar with the tricks employed by directors of

companies to seize large sums through fictitious fronts or bogus companies.

New dimensions were added to the affair by the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General. The report was in effect an indictment of the Central Government for the purchase of Howitzers from the Swedish company. It contradicted the findings of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The Auditor-General contended that there were lapses in technical and financial evaluation of the offers leading to the contract; the assessment of costs was faulty. The Government failed to ensure that there were no middlemen in the deal. The Army HQ, it was pointed out, had suddenly reversed its opinion and opted for Bofors after preferring the French-made Sofma gun. There were several other allegations. It was also learnt that the Government had tried several times to dodge the auditors. Certain files were made available to the auditors over two years after they were sought.

To complicate matters, there was former Army Chief Gen K. Sundarji's disclosure about the suitability of the Bofors gun. These disclosures were highly damaging to the Government of India, especially the Prime Minister's office. It appears that he, and also the then Defence Minister, had felt disturbed about the reported pay-offs and recommended to the Government to threaten cancellation of the Bofors contract, even at the late stage, if the Swedish firm persisted in its refusal to disclose the names of the pay-off beneficiaries. The former Army Chief alleged that the P.M.'s office stalled the process by coming down heavily on those who had urged pressurising the Bofors company to make the disclosures.

The Swedish Government had, after persistent efforts by the Indian authorities, supplied the secret, unpublished part of the Bofors scandal report but cautioned against its release to Parliament or the public. Such disclosure, it was pointed out, would violate Sweden's foreign trade interests. So the Government of India was helpless; it did not wish to be found guilty of a breach of trust. The

matter rested there.

Latest Phase: As the 1992 budget session of Parliament drew to a close on May 12, the impression among most opposition parties was that despite their persistent efforts in almost every session, there seemed to be little prospect of the truth behind the Bofors scandals coming out in the near future. Of assurances that the Union Government would leave no stone unturned to get at the truth there has been no dearth. The Leader of the Opposition, Mr L.K. Advani, said in the Lok Sabha on May 11 that in view of the Government's assurance during a meeting with opposition leaders that the issue would be probed thoroughly, he would wait until the next session of Parliament for exercising his right to raise the issue again. He added that if there was any lobby impeding investigation, the Government should take the House into confidence and must come clean by answering questions raised by the various parties in Parliament.

But many M.P.s are by now certain in their minds that the Government is out to scuttle any full-scale debate on the cover-up scam. According to certain sources, the Government fears that any further discussion of this highly sensitive and potentially dangerous issue (from its standpoint) would almost certainly cause embarrassment to the ruling leadership and, worse, erode the credibility of the Prime Minister. The Government spokesmen have a point in asserting that the issue has been discussed threadbare and much time has been spent flogging "a dead horse" and that it is not fair to the country to raise the same issues again and again. Every fair-minded person would however agree that when new disclosures are made by some functionary in Europe or by certain influential newspapers in this country, there is every justification for raising the issue in Parliament again.

The irony is that the "Operation Cover-up" is still being carried on at high levels, and there is a growing suspicion that even Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has now become a party to it.

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"Sanctions" Against India

For the first time, the USA has made India a victim of its policy of establishing global hegemony. In a punitive action for two years, the Bush Administration has blacklisted the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and also Russia's Glavkosmos for striking a deal for supply of booster rocket engines. This decision has raised a storm in India because of its serious implications.

THE relations between the USA and India showed a distinct improvement after the end of the Cold War. The process was carried further with the collapse of the Soviet Union. India had firm and friendly ties for many years with the latter. In fact, with every passing year the process gathered momentum. Pakistan had ceased to be a favourite frontline State of the USA because of the significant change in its strategic position.

The pro-Pakistan tilt which developed fast during and after the John Foster Dulles era has melted away, mostly because of the nuclear bomb programme on which Islamabad has been adamant even at the cost of the goodwill of the Americans and loss of substantial economic and military aid. The frequent contacts between New Delhi and Washington reinforced the goodwill between the two countries—the world's largest democracies. Several initiatives were taken by New Delhi and Washington to affirm the new relationship.

But during the past few weeks, Indo-US ties have received a severe setback as a result of several unilateral decisions taken by the US Administration against India. First, the US took retaliatory action under Section 301 of the Trade and Competitiveness Act and withdrew tariff concessions under its generalised system of preferences for pharmaceutical and chemical exports

from India. Washington made it clear, much to India's dismay, that all (the U.S.A's) demands must be met for opening up the Indian markets for American goods and services and also for the protection of US patents. Meanwhile the pressure on India for signing the highly discriminatory Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) mounted. Confirmation of the pressure on India, direct and indirect, and of the implicit threat, came through the comment of the "New York Times" to the effect that the obligation imposed on India by the recent changes in world politics to go global in its political and economic relations is a source of potential leverage for all countries with an interest in nuclear-free India.

The US maintains friendly ties with a country only as long as that country helps to promote the interests of Washington in various arenas. If it does not and shows a tendency to act independently, Washington drops that country like a hot brick, especially in a Presidential election year (as 1992 is). This is precisely what has happened. On May 11, 1992, a U.S. State Department spokesman asserted the right of his country to impose sanctions, full or partial, against any country that enters into transactions that are inconsistent with the provisions of the MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime)—a discriminatory measure. The MTCR was evolved by the US and 15 other countries in 1987 to check the spread of missile technology to the developing world. Explaining why the USA had not imposed sanctions against India and Russia as such, and only singled out the two companies (ISRO and Glavkosmos) for punishment, the spokesman said: "We restrict US support for firms and organisations which are engaged in trade which exceeds MTCR guidelines. The Russia-India deal (not yet finalised), for

transfer of technology, Washington feels, would contribute to the development of a MTCR class system capable of carrying a payload of 500 kg to a minimum distance of 300 km. The US law provides for sanctions in such cases".

Furore in India: There has been much resentment in India against the US action. "Look at the way the screw is being tightened against us", said Prof NVC Swamy, Director of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, while expressing serious concern at the Bush Administration's two-year ban on ISRO for commercial transactions in the USA. The "punishment" has been given for negotiations to import three cryogenic rocket engines from Russia. His impression was that the US had taken the step because it was afraid that India could prove what it could achieve in space science through indigenous technology.

Prime Minister Narasimha Rao said in New Delhi on May 7 that India would not tolerate arm-twisting or dictates from any other country and charter its own independent course without coming into confrontation with any big or small power. He asserted that India would strive not to be isolated in the world while resisting pressure from any country. He reiterated that India would never sign the NPT.

The US ban on trade and technology transfer to ISRO evoked strong condemnation in Parliament on May 12, with members demanding sharp retaliatory action against the USA, including cancellation of the proposed Indo-US joint naval exercises in the Indian Ocean. There was a spontaneous protest from all sections of Parliament; in fact, both the ruling party and opposition members vied with each other in assailing the US decision. They asserted that the country's scientists were capable of meeting the challenges posed by the

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US ban.

The US authorities conveniently overlooked the fact that the Indian space programme is meant only for peaceful purposes and did not violate the provisions of the MTCR. The Opposition Leader in India's Parliament demanded that the Government should give broad outlines of how it proposed to deal with the US offensive.

A typical comment was made by a Congress M.P. who said the US move amounted to striking at the sovereignty of the country. The sanctions were not against the ISRO, he contended, but against the country. He went to the extent of describing the sanctions as "a declaration of war" against India. The Government, it was widely felt, should discard its kid gloves and come out with an adequate and betitting reply. A CPM spokesman described the US action as "outrageous".

Since India is not a signatory to the MTCR, it cannot be expected to conform to its provisions. According to some quarters, the latest actions demonstrate that the US is not a reliable friend as the Soviet Union was. Is the ban on the ISRO a signal that India should be prepared to face American overlordship? The extent of the MPs' fury could be judged from the observation of one member that the act was like "trade terrorism", if not worse.

The cryogenic engine technology sought by ISRO for its Geostationary Launch Vehicle (GSLV) is not new. The first rocket using this technology—the Atlas Centaur—appeared in the US about three decades ago. It used a combination of liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen propellant. The Atlas launcher is still in use and has been found effective.

Ground Realities: This matter has an interesting history. The US itself had offered this system to India (and certain other countries) but it demanded a heavy fee for it. The US option, according to ISRO Chairman, was prohibitively costly. The price quoted by Russia is stated to be one-fourth of the French offer of Rs 800 crore. It may be mentioned that Glav-

kosmos, the Russian civilian space agency, desperately needs buyers for its technology, and India also urgently requires it. The offer to India was first made by the former President of the Soviet Union, Mr Gorbachov, during a visit to this country. The agreement was however signed a few months before the collapse of the Soviet Union. In principle, India can develop a cryogenic engine indigenously. But the time required—eight to 10 years at least—is very long and will materially affect the GSLV programme. "Time trade-off" was the reason behind the ISRO's bid to buy the technology from Russia.

But the US is also trying to prevent India from buying the requisite technology from other sources. On May 13, 1992, the State Department reportedly urged other parties to the MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime) to impose sanctions against the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Russia's Glavkosmos for their cryogenic engine rocket deal. "Being a member of the MTCR or a signatory to it, you have agreed to the rule, you should subscribe to the rule", the State Department spokesperson has told them.

The Department's belief is that the sanctions against the Russian agency would not stand in the way of the US buying from Russia the advanced nuclear "Topaz" rocket engine. It is learnt that it will take the US two or three years to develop this type of rocket engine and it will cost that country a couple of billion dollar. The contract by the US for Russian nuclear engines, it is explained, does not involve Glavkosmos and therefore is unaffected by the sanctions. Thus the US is itself doing what it wants to prevent India from doing.

Some American sources believe that advanced countries such as Germany and Japan are not likely to impose sanctions and would probably supply the technology to any customer ready to pay. There is another option. While Glavkosmos is barred, other companies in both countries will still be free to trade with the USA. The "Washington Times" has pointed out that the effect of the US decision would also be loss of busi-

ness for Americans in India.

There is no doubt, however, that the ban is a warning to the parties, especially Russia, that the US will not condone the transfer of technology with military applications. The Bush Administration fears that the rockets made with the Russian engine could be used to deliver bombs. The Government of India has strongly refuted this charge and has repeatedly assured that its programme is entirely peaceful. The Russian agency has affirmed that the rocket engine will be difficult to use for military purposes; it will take quite some time to make the adaptation for military purposes. India has no intentions whatever to adopt such a course.

Nevertheless there would certainly be a setback to the Indian space programme as a result of the two-year ban. Condemning the ban, the Director of the Nehru Planetarium feels that "the US is behaving like a school principal". He also expressed the view that the US is hitting out against Russia more than India. "The US wants to control Russia", he said. He also felt worried because the US can make things more difficult for India by exerting pressure on the European Space Agency not to launch this country's satellites. India cannot depend entirely on Russia either. It may be recalled that after the Pokharan nuclear explosion in May, 1974, the US stopped the supply of uranium to Tarapur. What the US is doing, according to the Indian planetarium director is nothing but resorting to arm-twisting of the worst form.

Another Indian scientist is of the opinion that the Americans are behaving like big bullies. He also did not rule out the possibility of the US creating more trouble for us as India still depends on other countries for launching satellites. If the US sticks to its decision, it would be very difficult for India to find alternative sources for the supply of the equipment that is now being denied. China can, if it likes, fill the gap and come to India's rescue. Of course there is nothing like self-reliance and developing our own rocket system but besides the heavy cost there is the time factor, which is vital.

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Export or perish is no longer a mere slogan. It's a formidable and real challenge. The present government is determined to meet it. The policy framework formulated in the five year EXIM document demonstrably shows this. The success calls for commensurate efforts on the part of the business community. This feature examines the whole gamut of problems.

Introduction

THE new Export Import (EXIM) policy announced on March 31, 1992 has the longest ever validity for a period of five years ending with March 31, 1997 and is co terminus with the eighth five year plan, 1992-97. However, if necessary changes can be effected once during a quarter on July 1, October 1, January 1 and April 1 each year.

It seeks to embody the trade policy announcements made earlier in July and August 1991 and redeems the pledges to further liberalise the free trade regime. It is believed that the trade can flourish only in a regime of substantial freedom.

The new Exim policy has been dictated by and is complementary to the macro economic adjustment and stabilisation policy initiatives taken by the present government. It is in tandem with other policies aimed at short term fiscal correction and medium term economic re-structuring.

In a bid to offset the persistent adverse balance of payments (BOPs) and the daunting debt, which had endangered the health of India's economy, the first step taken by the government was to adjust the external value of rupee in terms of major international currencies like the US dollar, £ sterling, D Mark etc. The rupee had been devalued by about 20 per cent in July 1991. This helped eliminate the Cash Compensatory Support (CCS) to exports in 1991-92 and reduced thereby the budgetary deficit by Rs 2,000 crore. The fun-

damental objective of rupee devaluation was to boost exports. But that was not enough. A package of measures epitomised as trade liberalisation had to be taken and have now been incorporated in the EXIM document.

Objectives

THE first and foremost objective of the new Exim policy obviously is to give a shrift to exports through de-regulation, de-bureaucratisation, incentives and enhanced capital goods imports. To enable exporters to plan their investment better, the Union Ministry of Commerce has made the policy for a longer period of five years instead of three years as done in the past. It has also stipulated that the policy changes, if necessary, should be only once in a quarter of a year. These provisions are intended to impart greater stability in trade.

It is argued that despite the incentives for exports mainly on easier and more profitable access to imports and removal or relaxation of controls, self sustained growth of exports continues to elude us. This export pessimism, according to the Secretary, Union Ministry of Commerce, is unwarranted. It must be admitted, however, that the quantum jump in exports needed to lift the economy to a higher growth path, reduction in abject poverty, distributive justice and less of regional inequalities are not goals within our easy reach. A turn around on the external front would depend considerably on the growth of the domestic as well as world economy. India may fail to expand exports if the global economy now in recession, does not recover.

The new trade policy is charged with an import bias, because all imports, except those on the "slim negative list or restricted or banned items, are allowed without any let or hindrance. There are now only four lists: a banned or negative list, a restricted list, a canalised list, and the

fourth covering all other goods freely importable without prior permission/licence or condition. The new Exim policy liberalises the import of even capital goods.

With the flood-gates for imports open, the policy has been described, by some critics, as "Import-export (Impex)" policy implying thereby that the focus in the policy is on imports rather than exports.

If the impact of liberal imports leads to dumping of substandards or unwanted goods (in fact two such cases have already occurred and have been brought to the notice of the government), the government would not be found wanting. It is planning to tighten the legal framework for stringent anti-dumping regime.

It would also be necessary for the government to see that the imports for the low priority sector of production are discouraged drastically. While the demand of the import-intensive industries justified import liberalisation, India cannot afford any profligacy in spending foreign exchange.

Highlights

TO achieve the foregoing objectives, the new Exim policy gives a further push to liberalisation. Trade is now free, though not fully. It is still restricted via the negative list of imports (which may be pruned further later) and of exports.

The negative list of imports is 'claimed' to be the shortest ever. Imports included in this list would be subject to a licence. The list contains prohibited items (3) tallow, animal rennet and ivory un-manufactured, the restricted imports (70) consumer goods like industrial, agricultural, mineral, and canalised items (8) petroleum products, chemical, fertilisers, drugs, edible oils, oil seeds and cereals etc.

The negative list of exports contains seven prohibited items, 62 items

subject to restrictions; and 10 canalised items. Export of 46 items will be permitted with minimum regulation.

The fact that capital goods are excluded from the negative list is a notable feature of the new Exim policy. Not only this. Even second-hand capital goods will be allowed for import. The latter provision is dangerous as the "old" capital goods may impair the quality of the product and if it does not require hi-tech, India may not have updated technology.

The Union Commerce Ministry has indicated its intention to prune the negative list further. This means that the process of liberalisation is still incomplete.

The new Exim policy has mounted an assault on bureaucratic regime built up over the past four decades or so. The network of rules and regulations which provided support and strength to the system, nurtured the licence raj and facilitated the exercise of discretionary controls by the vested interests has been razed to the ground. The old paradigm of trade, though opposed for long by the private sector, was assiduously sustained by the proponents of the public sector as an instrument of development. It has undoubtedly contributed a lot towards the growth of the economy and assisted the private sector, too, but the achievements have fallen short of the expectations. The controlled economy is faulted for obstructing development. The oligopolistic market resulted in distortions and inefficiency. The hopes have turned into fears and aspirations dashed. The change has, therefore, become inevitable. The Exim policy envisages bold and innovative measures for re-structuring the trading system and integrating the economy with the world economy. The outward-looking approach and competition abroad (and also at home) have their own advantages and disadvantages.

De-canalisation of certain imports through the public sector undertakings is an important component of the liberalisation process. The Mineral and Metals

Trading Corporation (MMTC) is consequently, likely to lose about Rs 1,500 crore in a year. The State Trading Corporation (STC) will also be severely affected by this decision. The number of canalising PSUs has, as a result, been reduced from eight to just five.

The Union Minister of Commerce, Mr P. Chidambaram, has hinted that these organisations would now have a new role. They will simply operate like other export houses and star trading houses and that they would be judged by their efficiency and performance. Their importance as official importing and exporting agencies has now eroded considerably.

Another feature of the Exim policy is simplification and rationalisation of trading procedures. As a result, the policy document has slimmed down from 828 pages to barely 85 pages.

Comments

ACCORDING to Mr Chidambaram, the new Exim "policy marks a watershed in the country's trade policy regime, which, for years, was based on the principle of balancing imports and exports".

The philosophy of the new policy is "to free the foreign trade regime from licensing, quantitative restrictions and other discretionary controls. What is more, it is based on "trust". The trade performance hinges on the positive response of the trio: industry, trade and business.

He claims that the policy will have a positive impact on exports to General Currency Area (GCA) and Rupee Payment Area (RPA). He rejects outright the view that the imports will outrun exports in the wake of import liberalisation. His contention is that since through the economic reform package the economy has switched on to free market regime, and exports thrive in such an environment, the apprehension of their lagging behind imports seems imaginary. Furthermore, the real question is more of the nature or type of imports rather than of the quantum of imports. The government is conscious of restricting not

only in-essential imports but also encourage export-related imports. The emphasis is on indigenisation of production without compromising the quality of the product.

In short, we should avoid imports which can be produced within the country at a comparatively lower cost and export value-added goods rather than the raw material. This would require new technology and skill. The new trade and financial policies are geared to create and procure technology with greater ease. To take decisions in this regard and implement them rests now with the private sector. It is for the trading community to rise to the occasion. The new Exim policy has created salubrious climate.

Predictably, the policy has been hailed by trade and industry bodies which feel that it would stimulate exports. The president of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry expects the export growth to exceed 12 per cent in 1992-93 and over 15 per cent a year in dollar terms during the eighth plan period, given the stability of the policy framework.

It is for the first time that the trade policy lays the much-needed stress on product quality in a separate chapter.

The Calcutta-based Indian Chambers of Commerce maintains that the "simple, concise and clear-cut" policies laid down in the Exim document would enable exporters to chalk out investment plan on a long-term basis.

A survey conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research reveals that the export demand will grow by 6.9 per cent in 1992-93 as against the growth rate of 3.9 per cent in the previous year. The credit for the higher export growth goes to the liberal trade policy according to more than half of the respondents.

Not all exporters are happy over the new Exim policy, although the majority of them are. The president of an exporters' association says: "This is not an export-import policy. It is an import policy." He criticises also the capital goods imports and prefers technology import.

Power Struggle in Kabul

Tribal Rivalries, Factional Manoeuvres

After 14 years of bitter fighting against Communist forces, which devastated the country, Afghanistan had a spell of peace, with a new President, Prof Sibghatullah Mojadidi in place of Dr Najibullah who stepped down. There was internal conflict, between rival guerrilla groups; this was followed by a cease-fire which continues to be in force for the time being. But peace hangs by a thread, with Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the extremist group of the Mujahideen, whose dream of seizing power in Kabul, remaining unfulfilled, threatening resumption of war. The situation is fluid.

I. Dismal Scenario

FOR nearly 14 years Afghanistan was rocked by a civil war which resulted in two million casualties and virtually ruined the economy. The period of conflict ended on April 29, 1992, when Prof Mojadidi, a moderate, took over as provisional President. He formed an interim Governing Council, with the clear understanding that he would stay in power for only two months and then make way for Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani. It was also understood that the new regime in Kabul would prepare the way for a general election which would determine the country's future and decide who should rule in Kabul.

Negotiations between the rival Mujahideen groups have been in progress since the exit of Dr Najibullah. Kabul has been free from the distressingly familiar random rockets fired by rival guerrillas. But the overall scene is not heartening. Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has threatened 14 more years of war and another two million casualties in his bid to seize power. On May 16, 1992, a UN envoy

warned that the tenuous peace between rival guerrilla groups could discourage international assistance to bring home the world's largest refugee population and rebuild a devastated country. The temporary truce is between the new Islamic interim government in Kabul and the renegade fundamentalist rebels led by Mr Hekmatyar.

The present position is that Mr Hekmatyar has been virtually sidelined in a power-sharing arrangement among the other Peshawar-based factions of the Mujahideen. At one time Pakistan had hoped that Mr Hekmatyar, whom it had backed, would head the rebel regime in Kabul. These hopes, and the ambitions of Mr Hekmatyar, have not been fulfilled. There is bound to be another crisis in Kabul if the provisional set-up in Kabul collapses and the bitter war between the Mujahideen rivals is resumed. Both sides have ample sophisticated weapons and could cause much havoc if these weapons are put to use. The Afghan guerrillas are ferocious fighters; by nature they love to engage in fighting and having revenge against those who they think have done them harm in one way or another.

At present Dr Najibullah's fate is uncertain. He has been taking shelter at the UN mission premises in Kabul (the UN special envoy, Mr Sevan, had promised him safe passage to a third country). Prof Mojadidi called for forgiveness for the ousted leader. But Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani, who is scheduled to take over as the President of Afghanistan in a few weeks, has said the former President must be tried for treason before an Islamic court. However, the former col-

leagues of Dr Najibullah will not be tried for their past deeds as they have been granted general amnesty by the new Islamic government. Prof Rabbani is the chief of the Jamiat-e-Islami.

On May 12 this year the fundamentalist government placed the Communist Party, which ruled the country from 1978 until April, 1992, under an immediate ban. All assets of the banned party are to be confiscated. Attendance of Friday prayers has been made compulsory and there is now a ban on un-Islamic books and practices. Tragically, the Kabul authorities are concentrating on establishing an Islamic regime rather than rebuilding the devastated country.

II. Accords for Peace

THE ground for ending hostilities was prepared by the Geneva accords. The main features of the accords, signed on April 14, 1988, were:

1. According to a bilateral agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan in particular, the two parties undertook (a) to respect the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity, national unity, security and non-alignment of the other; (b) to refrain from threat or use of force in any form whatsoever so as not to violate the boundaries of each other or disrupt the political, social or economic order of the other; (c) to ensure that its territory is not used in any manner which would violate the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and national unity of the other; (d) to refrain from armed intervention, subversion or military occupation; (e) to prevent within its territory the training,

equipping, financing and recruitment of mercenaries for the purpose of hostile activities against the other; and (f) to abstain from any hostile propaganda.

2. All refugees shall be allowed to return in freedom to their homeland. The returnees shall enjoy the free choice of domicile and freedom of movement; they shall enjoy the right to work and to adequate living conditions, the right to participate on an equal basis in the civic affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

3. The Soviet Union and the U.S.A. undertook to refrain from any form of interference and intervention in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and to respect the commitments in the bilateral agreement.

In the U.S. official and non-official circles the Soviet decision to pull out from Kabul was viewed as a victory of the then President Reagan and of American foreign policy. For the first time the U.S. had a fairly active official role on Afghan territory as a guarantor of the accord along with the Soviet Union. Since the adventure was proving costly and the Soviet occupation forces were suffering losses in men, planes and other material because of the stiff opposition by the rebels, the pull-out meant economic and military relief.

But the Soviet Union paid a heavy price for its misadventure. As many as 15,000 Soviet soldiers died in the war and 35,000 others were wounded. Afghanistan suffered terrible losses in the war—one million people killed, including combatants and civilians, according to the U.S. State Department estimates. In addition, five million people fled the country.

The accord did not ensure that peace would return to the sorely afflicted Afghanistan. There were several obstacles: (a) The accord was not a peace treaty; it was only an understanding, (b) Although the terms of the accord debarred foreign

powers from intervention in Afghanistan's internal affairs, the fact that the two Super Powers would continue their supplies of armaments, etc, to the ruling clique and the rebels respectively, meant that the basic causes of the conflict remained, (c) The rebels, and also Iran, rejected the accord, (d) Already the four protocols signed at Geneva were being interpreted by the signatories differently.

Faction-ridden Mujahideen: The intense factionalism among the Mujahideen has created many problems. These factions are not only bitter against one another but take great delight in showing off the bewildering collection of weapons at their disposal.

The prominent factions of the Mujahideen are: The powerful Jamiat-i-Islami, led by Ahmed Shah Massoud; the Hizb-i-Islami, fundamentalist faction, led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar; the Ittehad-i-Islami, led by puritanical Abdul Rasul Saiyyaf; the Mahaaz-i-Milli, led by Syed Ahmed Chilli, and Nijat-i-Milli, led by Prof Mojadidi, the interim President of the country. There is the mercenary force of the Uzbeki Jauzjan, the allegedly neutral faction of the charismatic Abdul Haq, and the various Shia groups.

Beyond Kabul there is a bewildering variety of small groups of Younis Khalis and Mohd Nabi Mohamandi. The provinces are under the control of various ethnic groups. These could lead to fragmentation of the country. In fact, the long years of internal fratricidal strife could create a highly damaging situation. It needs to be noted that during the uncertain period of transition there was systematic looting and an orgy in which almost all the factions indulged.

The Indian Airlines office was ransacked and its dollar currency was taken away. The diplomatic corps in Kabul, of which the Indian Ambassador is a prominent figure, represented to the Foreign Office and impressed upon the officials the ur-

gency of protecting the diplomats' and other foreigners' property.

Unfortunately, all the traditional and eminent codes of ethnic and tribal rivalry have been at work in the capital—Pashtun versus Tajik, Tajik versus Uzbek, and so on.

III. Rebuilding Ruined Country

FIGHTING apart, there is much the Mujahideen, the remnants of the Watan party, the army and the intellectuals have to do. The task of rebuilding and reconstructing the country should receive top priority. This was the essence of the argument put forth by the Foreign Minister, Mr Abdul Wakil, who has been a worried man. Foreign, especially western assistance, would have to be assured to this end.

Afghanistan leads the rest of the world in indices of poverty and deprivation. As one U.N. official, a veteran Afghan watcher for some years, stated, the country had the world's lowest life expectancy (42 years), second highest child mortality (300 deaths per 1,000 births), a monumental refugee problem (perhaps more than 3 million in Pakistan and an equal number in Iran) and a horrifying disability rate (one in five maimed by mines; in Kabul the men on crutches are a familiar sight). Above all, less than two-thirds of the farmlands are cultivated and the country is unable to feed its population, let alone contemplate coping with a refugee influx.

These daunting statistics were far from the minds of the Mujahideens. For them, the immediate task is to assess their relative positions of strength—who is controlling the TV station (Masood), the Defence Ministry (Masood), the dreaded secret police Khad's headquarters (Masood), the Ministry of Interior (Hekmatyar) and the presidential palace (Masood).

The Kabul international airport is under the authority of a formidable third force, the famed Uzbek militia, controlled by Mr Rashid Dostum.

These striking looking men have in the past been used by Dr Najibullah against the Mujahideen fighters. They have since switched loyalties and proved to be a daunting force to subdue.

"Afghanistan has suffered enough, the people have suffered enough", US Secretary of State James A. Baker said in Washington recently. "It's time for the shooting and the killing to end and it is time for a responsible government to begin." State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the United States welcomed the Council's arrival and hoped it would help stabilise the situation, lead to a lasting cease fire and political settlement. Russian Vice President Alexander Rostkoj hoped the rebel takeover would proceed without further bloodshed and that Russians remaining in the country where Soviet troops once were deployed

would not be harmed.

IV Worry for Pakistan

As a result of the unexpected developments, Pakistan has more cause for worry over Afghanistan than India. For this anomalous situation there are several reasons.

First, during the turbulent period in Afghanistan, Pakistan was, by and large, a beneficiary. The country's importance as a transit point for the flow of an endless stream of American weapons of various types. These weapons were meant to equip the Mujahideens in the fight against the Russian military forces which were sent to maintain the Communist hold over the Afghans. A part of these weapons remained in Pakistan. These were used by the Pakistan militants trained and equipped for subversive operations in Kashmir Valley.

Second, substantial US monetary

aid came from the USA to the Mujahideens. A fairly large part of this money was misappropriated by Pakistani middlemen, including officials. Following the Geneva accords, the flow of arms and finances from the US was stopped. The aid to Pakistan to enable it to feed the three million refugees from Afghanistan has lately been reduced to a trickle.

Third, Pakistan's expectation was that Afghanistan would become a client State under the overall control and supervision of Islamabad. But with the Mujahideens deciding to settle their disputes themselves, Pakistan finds that it has lost its influence. It feels disappointed that it has virtually no role to play in the future set up of Afghanistan.

Fourth, the emergence of fundamentalists on top is bound to create problems for Pakistan. The hardcore fundamentalists who have lost the race for power (the moderates

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have somehow won in Kabul) are bound to continue their efforts to settle old scores with their rivals.

Fifth, the predominance of the Pushtoons who constitute about half the population of Afghanistan will have its repercussions in Pakistan. It will, in due course, strengthen the demand for (Pakhtoonistan) Pash-tunistan with a more dangerous connotation. Already there is unrest in NWFP and Baluchistan in this regard.

Sixth, the developments in Afghanistan are bound to intensify the rapidly brewing ideological struggle in Pakistan. In the past few weeks there has been a formal break in the solidarity of the IJI, with the Jamait-i-Islami parting company and indulging in verbal attacks on the rivals. The battle between the IJI crusaders, led by Mr Nawaz Sharif, and the IJI chief Qazi Hussain Ahmed may have serious consequences in Islamabad. Which brand of Islam is Pakistan going to choose?

Seventh, Islamabad earnestly desires a land-based trade route to Central Asia. For this, a "land corridor" linking the five independent Central Asian republics with Pakistan is required. Unless the new Kabul regime cooperates, the prospects of this trade route getting opened on the lines desired by Pakistan will remain uncertain.

The continuing divisions among the Afghans and the Pakistan Government's decision to virtually disown Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who had made Peshawar his headquarters, have further complicated matters. Not surprisingly, Mr Hekmatyar is disillusioned. The Pakistan Government's prompt recognition of the new Government in Kabul means a setback to Hekmatyar and his Hizb-i-Islami followers.

On May 6, 1992, Pakistan made it known that it will not permit the use of its territory for any hostile activity against the newly installed Afghan Government. In fact, it is probable that restrictions will be imposed on the dissident leader, Mr Gulbuddin

Hekmatyar, and others operating from Peshawar. An Islamabad Foreign Office spokesman stated that Afghanistan has been granted diplomatic recognition as a sovereign and independent country and Pakistan's relations with it have to be conducted on this basis. So the question of any dissident activity emanating from Peshawar does not arise.

Pakistan's stand regarding Afghanistan now is that it favours the return of all Afghan leaders based in its territory and non-interference in the internal affairs of a neighbour.

Loss of influence: Earlier reports from New York stated: Pakistan is losing influence over Afghan rebels and recent developments have left it on the sidelines as the Afghans themselves take control of their destiny. Despite a series of high-level talks between Pakistani government officials and Afghan rebel leaders, it has become clear that its ability to influence them is now limited, the "New York Times" reported, quoting Western diplomats in Islamabad.

Over the years, Pakistan had secured influence with the rebel groups by controlling money and flow of arms which fed rivalries between them (rebel groups). But now with the rapidly unravelling events in Kabul politics and solutions have moved inside Afghanistan and Pakistan's role has been left on the sidelines, the report added.

"We have entered a phase where the Afghans are calling the shots", the paper quoted an unidentified western diplomat as saying. "For the first time, they are independent. This is no longer a client-sponsor relationship. They don't need Pakistan any more."

Pakistan was stated to have abandoned its hard line approach for a negotiated settlement in Afghanistan and seemed to be swinging towards support to an interim government. Stating that Pakistan has a huge stake in a peaceful solution to the civil war in Afghanistan, the paper said Pakistan is eager to make sure that any ethnic strife does

not spill across the border and more than three million refugees are seriously straining its economy. Besides, it is eager to develop political and economic ties with the Muslim Central Republics of the former Soviet Union and for this needs an open route through Afghanistan.

A political analyst said there was anxiety that "in case factional strife among the Mujahideen factions spills into Pakistani territory, there will be anarchy".

V. India's Role and Reaction

INDIA has maintained friendly relations with Afghanistan for many years. Presumably at the instance of the erstwhile Soviet Union, the Government of India gave support to the Communist-backed regime in Kabul especially with the emergence (in 1986) of Dr Najibullah as the President of that troubled country. Dr Najibullah visited New Delhi several times and was treated as a welcome guest. But with the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the withdrawal of the Communist army from Afghanistan in 1989, India ceased to take much interest in Kabul affairs. It found itself caught on the wrong foot.

Following the lead taken by Pakistan, on April 29, 1992, India promptly recognised the new regime in Kabul. The provisional President, Prof Mojadidi, assured the Indian Ambassador when the latter called on him, that he desired cordial relations with New Delhi. India's Minister of State for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro lost no time in declaring the Indian Government's support for a "sovereign, independent, non-aligned and united Afghanistan".

Dr Najibullah naturally feels disturbed that he should have been discarded in this manner by an old friend and ally. Some critics even contended that India's sudden switch of loyalty was unwarranted, but the majority of the people feel the decision was inevitable in view of the

change in the Kabul regime. Our commitment was not to Najibullah as a person but to the President of Afghanistan.

New Danger to India: A grave problem is likely to arise for India as a result of the restoration of peace to Afghanistan, whatever the political structure in Kabul and whatever the nature of the possible fragmentation of Afghanistan. An American analyst, who is a frequent visitor to Kabul, feels that the immediate impact of the Kabul switch would be on Kashmir. The thousands of Afghan youth, especially the youthful guerrillas who know only how to wield the gun—Kalashnikovs like wizards. They established their skill during the prolonged war against the Soviet soldiers. Mujahideen commanders, and also the Defence Minister of Afghanistan, Mr Ahmed Shah Masood, reportedly hold the view "Now that Kabul has been liberated from god-

less Communists and the tyranny of Napp, one of the main goals would be 'liberation' of Kashmir." To achieve this goal, the Mujahideen fighters of Afghanistan and Kashmir would unite. The militants of Pakistan are already doing their best (or worst) in Kashmir Valley and creating grave problems for the Government of India and the administration in J & K. The Afghan guerrillas are bound to become restless sooner or later, they would like to remain occupied with armed battles. Kashmir would come in handy for this purpose. They would certainly strive for an Islamic revolution "Jihad". Meeting the increasing threat posed by the reinforced militants and subversive elements would become a formidable challenge to India.

This threat would assume grave proportions with the increase in the trained volunteers returning from North Africa, W Asia and the Philip-

pines and the piling up of weapons in Afghanistan. Estimates of the surplus arsenal vary, but it is believed by some experts that the automatic weapons with the Afghans outnumber those of the Indian and Pakistani armies. The arsenal includes a vast variety of weapons.

In this matter, India can hardly expect any cooperation from Pakistan, in fact, Pakistan will almost certainly extend full support to the activities of the Mujahideens. Thus the threat to India will be compounded.

Meanwhile, India can play a role in the massive task of rebuilding ruined, war-ravaged Afghanistan. The Government has already offered to do what it can in this direction. We should certainly help in alleviating the distress of the Afghan people. After all, stability and peace in the region are of great importance to this country and to Asia as a whole. It is



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of course desirable for India to remain out of Afghanistan's internal squabbles and the guerrillas' factional strife. The Government has however done well to offer asylum to Dr Najibullah should he desire to settle in this country.

Economic aid: India has offered economic assistance, besides food and medicines, to Afghanistan to help in the massive task of reconstruction of the war-ravaged country. The offer was made by the Indian ambassador when he called on Prof Mojadidi on May 2. He reiterated that India and Afghanistan had historical ties and India's efforts would be to give further boost to these.

Reciprocating, Prof Mojadidi said that Afghanistan welcomed assistance for rebuilding its war-shattered economy. The new Afghan administration which has made its foreign policy directions clear by declaring more open and close alignment with the Islamic bloc has also not foreclosed itself to having more meaningful relations with Western nations and India.

The Mujahideen commanders expressed their displeasure over what they called India's covert and overt support to various Communist regimes in the country for the past 14 years but still they retain a desire for deeper people-to-people ties between the two countries developed over the centuries.

The most powerful Mujahideen commander and Defence Minister-designate, Mr Ahmed Shah Masood, amply reflected this when he said "India had disappointed Afghans by following a wrong course in the past" adding, "we hope that the Indian Government realises its mistakes and mends its policy." But Afghanistan would welcome help from any quarter for its massive rebuilding effort.

Chronology of Events

1978—April: Afghan Government overthrown by pro-Soviet Marxist party. Armed non-Communist

resistance begins.

1979—Dec 24-27: Soviet troops occupy Afghanistan, supposedly in response to the appeal of the pro Marxist regime then in power in Kabul. Babrak Karmal installed as President.

1986—February: Mr Gorbachov, who did not favour the Soviet intervention, describes the war as "a bleeding wound".

May 4: Mr Babrak Karmal, the then President, steps down as head of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA). Dr Najibullah succeeded him. Fighting escalates.

July 28: Mr Gorbachov announces withdrawal of six regiments by the end of the year.

1987—Dec 7-10: During the U.S.-U.S.S.R. summit the two Powers discuss a time-table for withdrawal of Soviet troops.

1988—Jan 6: Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze announced that the U.S.S.R. would like 1988 to be the last year of Soviet troops presence in Afghanistan.

April 14: Geneva accords signed by Pakistan, Afghanistan, the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R., the last two serving as co-guarantors of the accord which provided for withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, beginning on May 15, 1988. A bilateral agreement between Pakistan and Afghanistan pledged non-intervention and non-interference in each other's affairs.

May 15: Soviet forces begin withdrawal.

Dec 7: Mr Gorbachov, speaking at the UN General Assembly's 43rd session, calls for a standstill arrangement among all belligerents and a

cease-fire seeking demilitarisation of Afghanistan. Proposal rejected by the US and Mujahideens.

1989—Jan 1: A four-day cease-fire announced by the Soviet Union and Kabul regime. Mujahideens reject it.

Jan 10: Soviet talks with Mujahideens break down.

Jan 17: Peshawar-based Mujahideens announce that a representative 539-member council, "Shoora" comprising nominees of all groups operating from Pakistan and Iran and also "good Muslims" in Afghanistan will meet soon.

Feb 10: "Shoora" session collapses following sharp differences on representation of Iran-based and Pakistan-based rebel groups.

Feb 15: All Soviet troops (estimated at 115,000) leave Afghanistan by stages.

1990—June: Najibullah makes sweeping constitutional reforms.

1991—April: Najibullah suffers biggest military setback.

1992—March: Najibullah offers to transfer power to interim government established under U.N. Peace Plan. Guerrillas continue fighting.

April 15: Najibullah steps down, takes shelter in UN mission premises in Kabul.

April 20-25: Important towns of Afghanistan captured by Mujahideen rebels.

April 29: All power ceded to Prof Mojadidi, following historic transition of power. Interim government formed under the leadership of Prof Mojadidi.

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Argumentative Questions on Social and Economic Problems

The following are the answers to the first four questions of Section I of the paper on Socio-Economic questions set for the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Main examination held early in 1992. The answers to the other questions will be published in subsequent issues of the C.M.

POVERTY IN INDIA

Q. 1. Account for the persistent poverty in India.

Ans. As Jawaharlal Nehru put it, in India there has been poverty and the innumerable progeny of poverty everywhere and the mark of this beast has been on every forehead. It is the basic reality in the country; in spite of all the poverty alleviation programmes and the series of five-year plans, about 45 crore people, according to experts' estimates, are still living below the poverty line. In fact, the persistent poverty continues to be the country's basic problem.

Among the main causes of India's age-old poverty are: massive unemployment, under-employment, illiteracy, over-population, inequitable distribution of land, low returns from agriculture, the consequential food shortages, ceaseless exploitation of the landless and other hapless, down-trodden people, uneconomic holdings, the occasional periods of drought (despite above-average monsoon in 1991 several States are currently suffering from drought, including Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Gujarat). Inadequate rain in some areas make a wide ranging impact. The fall in agricultural incomes inevitably cause much distress which

is generally compounded by the unchecked inflation, the soaring prices of essential commodities which make life harder from year to year and a virtual nightmare for millions of people.

Eradication of poverty—the most important objective of planned development—has been accorded the highest priority in the Central Government's economic strategy, envisaging a reduction in the number of people living in abject poverty, a redistribution of resources together with a higher growth rate. Ambitious anti-poverty programmes are drawn up by the Government every now and then. Crores of rupees are allocated for these plans in the Budget but actual implementation of the programmes in both rural and urban areas has been very slow, lopsided and, as a member of the Planning Commission said some time ago, "very bad". Because of poor implementation of the programmes, the problem of poverty continues to be of staggering proportions.

Thanks to the new farming techniques which include the systematic use of fertilisers, new varieties of seeds and other inputs, there are bumper crops in some States. While there is paucity of food and a high price level for agricultural produce in a few adversely affected States, there is plenty of grain in others. The food shortages are hurting vast sections of society in the country; a small pocket of prosperity is surrounded by a sea of poverty characterised by the begging bowl for petty morsels of food.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the majority of the people. For higher

farm production, efficient growth in the agricultural sector is obviously necessary. Optimisation of land and water resources has to be insured to this end. A tragic flaw in the overall scenario is that even now two-thirds of the rural households own less than one hectare of land, or even no land at all. These people constitute the lowest category of the poor. Along with lakhs of the poor urban labourers and low-paid clerks and peons, they impose a burden on the public distribution system. The need of the hour is higher productivity and a fair distribution of resources.

Of all the plans that have been formulated for poor masses during the past two decades or so, the Minimum Needs Programme is the most promising. Obviously, if the basic needs of the masses are met, the main problem of poverty will be more or less solved. But a major flaw in this programme is that it does not provide for adequate food and nutrition for all the people. Food should have been given the topmost priority, other items could follow.

GREEN REVOLUTION

Q. 2. Make a case for continuity of the Green Revolution in India.

Ans. The Green Revolution witnessed by the country about three decades ago was due to the researches carried on by the experts of the Punjab Agricultural University at Ludhiana. New farming techniques—the use of high-yielding seed varieties, streamlined use of fertilisers and adoption of farming methods, including better irrigation—have indeed brought about a

dramatic and substantial increase in farm productivity, especially in wheat. It was later extended to rice and pulses. The entire agricultural scene in Punjab, Haryana, UP and a few other States also, was transformed beyond recognition. The farm output showed a spurt; the bumper crops brought much hope and raised the spirits of the farmers. It is true that the major beneficiaries of modern farming techniques have been the bigger landowners who could afford to adopt the technology (they had the requisite resources), but undoubtedly the country as a whole has gained. After a few years the saturation point seemed to have been reached and there was not much additional progress on the agricultural front. The fertility of farm land remained almost stationary at a certain level and the additional inputs stopped bringing about proportionately beneficial results.

Agricultural research has however continued at the various centres and new techniques and seed varieties have been evolved for rice and other crops also. There is certainly a strong case for continuing the Green Revolution and modern farm inputs. Apart from the all-too-familiar and urgent needs for more farm produce, there is the dismal slowdown in agricultural progress in most parts of the country. The gradual fall in the productivity and the emergence of several allied problems need to be speedily and effectively checked. We must constantly bear in mind that agriculture is still a key factor in India's economy. Large tracts of waste land have to be reclaimed and there is urgent need to bring more land under the plough and ensure intensive cultivation on the available areas.

Official statistics show that there has been a 1.5 per cent fall in food production in the 1991-92 season. A slowdown has been noticed in the agricultural sector as a whole despite the rise in the production of some cash crops. The gravity of the situation is underlined by the fact that Indian agriculture is still substantially

dependent on the monsoon. As was predicted by some meteorological experts on the basis of the cyclical pattern of the monsoon, the rainfall during the 1992 season might be less than during the past three years when the rain was generally adequate and well spread. So there might be drought in many more areas in the coming months.

Unfortunately, government expenditure on construction and maintenance of irrigation projects has been considerably curtailed in the past year. The Government's investment in agriculture and rural development has also been eroded because of faulty and wayward fiscal policies. The situation has been worsened by the constantly rising prices and bureaucratic delays in implementation of important projects. The prices of agricultural inputs, fertilisers in particular, have sharply risen since the July, 1991, budget. Some subsidies have been reduced. Food security has yet to be achieved.

Moreover, the rate of advance in Indian agriculture during the past two decades has only slightly outpaced the growth of population. Millions of poor people, including women and children, are still deprived of their full quota of food requirements. If India is to escape the horrifying spectacle of "ship to mouth" experience of the 1960s (already there is talk of importing grain to feed the markets and check the increase in prices), well planned schemes must be drawn up for adequate food production. For this purpose, the Green Revolution techniques must be pursued with greater earnestness. The new techniques should be continued in the traditionally fertile region and extended to other areas in the eastern States where the land potential has not been fully exploited.

Further investments in agriculture are urgently needed and greater efforts should be made to enhance the output of all crops. The long-delayed land reforms should be introduced without further dithering.

This requires political will and determination to eliminate the hurdles created by vested interests.

Continuity of the Green Revolution is, in any case, vital for the country's economic progress. Complacency and repeated surrender to the dictates of the influential landlords would be suicidal.

THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Q. 3. "The public sector has been a drag on the country's budgetary resources." Discuss. In this context, make out a case for privatisation.

Ans. For the past many years the public sector has been widely known for continuous heavy losses, gross inefficiency, poor management, faulty functioning, considerable waste of resources, very low returns on the massive investment and even corruption. As a result, the public sector has been a big drain on the country's budgetary and other resources. This sector was established largely to promote the national interest and check the malpractices for which the private sector had become notorious. But it has been a great disappointment and has cost the country heavily. In fact, the all-round stagnation of the nation's economy is reflected in the public sector. Only a few State-owned enterprises make profits. Ironically, the state of affairs has been deteriorating from year to year and thus increasing the drain of budgetary resources. For instance, the overall net profit of public enterprises (a few of them are doing well) fell sharply by about 38 per cent from Rs 3788.87 crore in 1989-90 to Rs 2367.74 crore in 1990-91 even as the Government took steps to bring about structural changes in this vital sector. The fall has been officially attributed to the low production in crude oil, rise in wages, the cost of other inputs, the Gulf crisis and the general poor economic situation. The losses of the losing concerns increased in 1989-90; nearly 100 enterprises incurred a net loss of Rs

1961 crore which went up to Rs 3063 crore incurred by 109 enterprises during 1990-91.

Apart from the dubious psychological satisfaction that an ideological aim is being served, even if partially, there seems to be little justification for investing Rs 100,000 crore in the public sector, more than double the investment in 1985-86. For these and other reasons, there is a strong case for privatisation of most of the public sector enterprises.

The Union Government decided over a year ago to disinvest up to 20 per cent of its equity in selected public sector enterprises. This was announced by Finance Minister Manmohan Singh during his budget speech in 1991. The phased out disinvestment would mark a fundamental departure from the earlier policies which laid emphasis on larger and still larger investments to help such undertakings attain commanding heights of the nation's economy. India, unfortunately, is one of the highly indebted countries of the world.

Shedding the flabby public sector undertakings by partial privatisation would help in improving the state of the economy. Wherever privatisation has been adopted, the deterioration in state of the economy has been generally checked, except in cases where there are other causes for the poor performance. Britain, France and the former USSR among the developed countries, and Brazil, Mexico, Chile and Malaysia among the developing countries have resorted to privatisation to solve some of their difficulties.

The object of limited privatisation needs to be clearly stated. Faced with the resources crunch, the Government's main aim is to augment the available finances. Undeniably, the public sector has a vast resource potential. A huge amount can be collected even if a small proportion of the shares is sold to the public. Each share is likely to bring several fold its face value. As a

resources raising measure, it will bring to the exchequer about Rs 2500 crore annually.

INDIA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Q. 4. Clearly spell out the economic problems facing the country. Suggest measures to solve the problems.

Ans. During the past few years India has been facing several economic problems, most of them of disconcerting dimensions. In fact, the series of economic crises, one coming close on the heels of the other, have been causing great concern to the administration and the people in general.

Among the baffling problems are: the seemingly uncontrollable inflation with the ever increasing prices of essential commodities causing much distress to the common man because of the high cost of living; the fast growing population, which has upset the nation's economy, especially the five-year plans; the gaping budget deficits caused by inadequate revenue and heavy expenditure; the glaring economic disparities among various regions; the maldistribution of resources; the heart-breaking poverty and starvation amidst a few pockets of affluence; the fiscal imbalance in the national economy (these imbalances and distortions are not new but have been persisting for decades); the disconcerting phenomenon of falling exports and increasing imports; with the ever-widening trade deficit; the acute balance of payments difficulties; the foreign exchange crisis (a sequel to the unbalanced structure; the heavy taxation with its dismal impact on the common man; the stagnation in both industry and agriculture; the continuing losses suffered by the public sector (widely known as "a white elephant") despite the investment of Rs 100,000 crore; faulty management of resources and ill-conceived agricultural policies devised under politicians' ceaseless pressures. There is also the major problem of unemployment. On April 1, 1992, 23 million persons were looking for full-time jobs.

Suggested Remedies: For controlling the highly damaging inflationary pressures, stricter economic policies are essential. The wide gap between government revenues and expenditure should be drastically reduced. The gaping budget deficits and the tendency of issuing more and more currency notes to meet the growing needs for funds should be given up. But the pity is that the Government makes high-sounding pronouncements to control prices and even fixes target dates for this purpose, but these prove fruitless. The price spiral goes on. The Government should drastically reduce its massive expenditure and adopt realistic, down-to-earth policies. Moreover, deterrent action should be taken against profiteers.

The rapid growth in population is not easy to check. The Government has been carrying on propaganda in favour of small families. This should be intensified, especially in rural areas where the rate of increase in population is much larger. More incentives should be offered for small families in rural areas. At present these are given mostly in urban centres.

The glaring economic disparities should be redressed by greater attention to the under-developed areas; at present there are many districts which are neglected or given only small amounts of money for economic development. Besides, it has been found that corrupt middlemen and bureaucrats eat up a large part of the Government grants announced with much fanfare in Parliament and at public meetings.

Government expenditure must be reduced systematically. The Government promises to enforce maximum economy and announces measures to reduce the size of the bloated bureaucracy, but such promises are seldom implemented.

The large industrial houses which concentrate on profit making and seldom try to reduce imports of goods should be disciplined.

ECONOMIC SCENE

Human Development Elusive?

Q. The past few decades have witnessed the growth of the world markets, but not the quality of life. Why?

Ans. The controversial question whether economic growth automatically leads to freedom from wants and is a panacea for poverty has been debated for long. It has received a fresh lease of life in a recently released Human Development Report (HDR)—the third in the series since the publication of the first version in 1990. Dr Mahbub-ul-Haq, of the United Nations Development Programme, who headed the team of researchers for the report, says that despite the accelerated growth in output, in education and in opportunities for development in the last 30 years, the picture of the developing economies remains a "frightening" one. Not only the third world continues to reel under grinding poverty and destitution, the industrialised countries have grown richer. The rich-poor chasm has widened ever more. The report points out that the global disparities over the last three decades have actually doubled. The disparity for the world, as a whole, is 1:150. The emerging phenomenon calls for deeper analysis in order to comprehend the causes and evolve a new strategy for human development—the ultimate accepted objective of growth now.

What is human development? The HDR, 1990, defined it as the "process of enabling people to have wider choices. Income is one of those choices, but it is not the sum total of human life. Health, education, a good physical environment and freedom of action and expression are just as important".

With imponderables so varied and diverse, quantification of human development in respect of a region over a period of time for purposes of

spatial study is not easy. Neither are the figures so derived unquestionable statistically. However, Dr Haq has constructed human development indices for each UN member country and analysed the changes with a view to formulate policy framework for improving human development.

His study reveals that during the last 30 years, the developing countries have tried to catch up with the developed ones. They have closed some of the gaps in basic human survival but a tremendous gap is emerging in real opportunities, in access to markets, in income levels, in higher education and in technologies which will set the stage for the twenty-first century. The unbridged chasm accounts for the regional disparities.

What is needed is massive investment in human capital and technology. This stands in contrast with the classic growth theories which emphasised investment in material rather than human capital formation. This approach has dominated the growth/development doctrines over the years but since it has failed to solve the fundamental problem of rampant poverty of the third world, the concept and content of development is changing.

Now, development takes a holistic view of man while, at the same time, material capital formation continues. Investment in education, technology—domestic technology, in particular—and skill formation are the priority areas.

The unequal access to world's financial trade and labour markets cost the developing countries 500 billion dollar annually (!) nearly ten times of what these countries receive as foreign aid. This is an astounding revelation which should set the aid recipients and aid givers a thinking.

Our objective to eradicate pover-

ty and unemployment and reduce inequalities must, therefore, be to ensure that the poor countries and the poor people have access to technologies that enable them to attain sustained human development. That this has become much easier with the ending of the cold war between the super-powers requires no elaboration. The action plan of human development eschews military expenditure on a global level.

Technology is, thus, the key to a better future. That has been constantly emphasised by the planners and the government in India.

Credit Policy

Q. Outline briefly the main features, with comments, of the credit policy announced by the Reserve Bank of India recently.

Ans. The recent slack season credit policy of the Reserve Bank of India takes de-regulation of the financial sector a step further. Though the RBI has allowed banks more leeway, the Indian banks, it is feared, will lose out to the foreign banks. Let us consider some of the highlights of this policy.

Objectives: The primary objective of the monetary policy is, as it should be, to revive industrial and agricultural production, encourage exports and control inflation. It should be noted that the remedial measures embodied in the policy are not such as can help achieve simultaneously all the objectives. For instance, increased money supply to step up production may only help fuel inflation. On the contrary, restrictions on monetary expansion would help reining in inflationary forces but not boost industrial and agricultural output or exports. The impacts of certain measures would be positive on certain fronts and negative or opposite on others. The choice of measures or of combination of measures is a dilemma.

Highlights: 1. *Interest rate:* The banks have been given the freedom to fix interest rates on term deposits for three maturities ranging between 46 days and three years with a cap rate of 13 per cent per annum. The deposit rates for all term deposits would not exceed this ceiling effective April 22, 1992. At present, the interest rates on term deposits for three maturities are in the range of 11-13 per cent per annum. The interest on savings account has been raised to six per cent per annum.

The policy, however, suggests (a) a minimum of three maturities of a bank's choice; (b) each differential rate between any two successive maturity slabs to be of at least 0.25 percentage points; and (c) all branches of a bank must offer uniform rates to all customers. The last provision of a uniform rate of interest for all branches may well be feasible for urban-based banks but not for their counterparts in the rural areas. The public sector banks are to advance soft loan to the priority sector to fulfil their commitment to social or mass banking philosophies.

The ceiling rate of 13 per cent on term deposits is decried by both the foreign and Indian banks as "half-hearted liberalisation". Foreign banks feel that the rates of interest should not be dictated through an RBI edict but be determined by the amount, period, risk and the rate of inflation.

2. *Advances:* The new credit policy has liberalised credit. With the reduction in the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) to 30 per cent from 38.5 per cent, the abolition of Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (ICRR) of 10 per cent and the withdrawal of an incremental non-food credit-deposit ratio, the banks, it is estimated, will have Rs 4,000 crore extra finances to make advances for the industrial and agricultural purposes. In other words, the banks will no longer be required to maintain 10 per cent additional CRR on any increases in the deposits after April 17, 1992. The removal of the incremental credit-deposit ratio implies that the banks can lend beyond what is strictly sustainable by their deposits.

3. *Money Market:* The RBI has introduced a longer-term Treasury Bill of 364 days in addition to the two earlier ones of 90 and 182 days to enable banks to take more short term investment decisions without having to worry about depreciation.

4. *Bank closure:* The banks can now close down a bank in areas other than those of rural areas.

Food Crisis Ahead?

Q. Do you subscribe to the view that India is on the brink of a serious food crisis?

Ans. The decade of nineties began with a record production of foodgrains: 176.5 million ton in 1990-91. But in the following year the output declined to 171-173 million ton, or nearly 10 million ton below the target of 182.5 million ton. The National Conference for Kharif Campaign has, therefore, set the target only slightly higher at 183 million ton for 1992-93.

Not only has there been a shortfall in foodgrains production but also in the procurement of foodgrains. It is the latter factor which is really worrisome because the low procurement profile would have far-reaching effects. It will fuel inflation, jeopardise the Public Distribution System (PDS) and throw out of gear the package of economic reforms which the present had embarked upon with a fanfare last year.

Adverse factors: It is surprising that despite (almost) four good monsoons and bumper crops in a row, India is faced with a food situation of grave concern to the government. True, with the weakening of monsoon in 1991, agricultural output plummeted to a level between 167.5-173.5 million ton in 1991-92, showing a fall of 9 million ton from the 1990-91 level. It is claimed that the Indian agriculture has attained resilience to weather shocks in the recent past. But the last year's erratic behaviour has upset the apple-cart and the food economy is in the red.

The question is: what has gone wrong? Nature has disturbed the balance. But more than that the

present situation is man-made. The factors and forces that have led to it may be stated as follows:

(i) The decline in Kharif production, mainly coarse grains and rice—from 99.7 million ton in 1990-91 to 94.2 million ton in 1991-92. A shortfall is expected in gram production during 1991-92 due to inadequate rains in post monsoon season.

(ii) Nefarious designs of the traders to persuade the grain growers and farmers to hold back crops, refuse to sell foodgrains to the procurement agencies. The twin objective is to reduce the buffer stocks and supply of grains in the markets and pressurise the government to hike the procurement price and also increase the open market price of wheat. This farmer-trader nexus has forced the government to hike the price of foodgrains to a new high. The Food Corporation of India has offered a bonus of Rs 25 per quintal on foodgrains tendered. The State governments of Punjab and Haryana have offered a further incentive of Rs 5 per quintal. Thus, the farmer would get Rs 30 per quintal over and above the declared procurement price of Rs 250 a quintal or Rs 55 more than what a farmer earned for every quintal of foodgrain sold to the government last year. Not satisfied, the farmers boycotted marketing the produce in the hope that by hoarding the crop they would earn more. The coercive tactics to extort a higher procurement price are neither in the larger interests of the farmers nor the rest of the world. The government must resist it.

(iii) To bridge the gap between the procurement and the requirement (which is bound to enhance with the proposed extension of the PDS to 1,700 new village blocks in the economically backward areas) the government is planning to import one million ton wheat.

(iv) The prevailing circumstances demand a tough approach in handling the hoarders. Failure on the part of the government will prove disastrous. Any more concessions or bait would be a bad precedent.

DESCRIPTIVE QUESTIONS

The following are answers to the questions put in the paper on "Descriptive Questions" set in the BSRB, Bhopal, P.O.s examination held in October, 1991

We thank Mr Vineet Saran of Patna, Saroj and Jasowant of New Delhi, Mr G Ranjan Singh, Mr Bankey Bihari and Mr Anil Kumar Bhatia, all of Delhi, for sending us a copy of the question paper.

Forest Wealth

Q. 1. "Guarding forest wealth is desirable but it is not possible in view of the need of rapid industrialisation." Give two arguments in favour and two arguments against the statement.

Ans. Conservation of our forest wealth is certainly desirable. In fact, our forests are a precious national asset which must be protected by all possible means. India has an area of 747 lakh hectares notified as forests; some are classified as "reserved", others are "protected". Unfortunately, trees are being recklessly cut; consequently, our green cover is rapidly vanishing. The major cause of depletion is biotic pressure. With only two per cent of the total forest land in the world, India supports 15 per cent of the global population and 13 per cent of the total number of cattle.

But the increasing destruction and degradation of forests and treelands in the country, especially in the Himalayas and other hill areas, is causing heavy erosion of top soil, erratic rainfall and recurring floods, besides leading to shortage of firewood. More important, there is loss of productivity due to the erosion and the degradation of lands. The Government therefore promotes afforestation, social forestry and also farm forestry. The National Forest Policy has, as its basic objective, the maintenance of environmental stability and ecological balance.

While protection of forests and afforestation are important for the national interest, the demands of in-

dustrialisation, of which clearance of lands covered by trees is a part, cannot be ignored.

Arguments in Favour

1. Since the total land area is limited and cannot be increased (the area reclaimed from the sea is negligible), land has to be found for establishing industrial plants in various parts of the country. For rapid industrialisation either agricultural land has to be made available at the cost of farm produce or trees have to be cut.

2. The needs of industrialisation cannot be overlooked or bypassed on the ground that forests must be preserved and should not be sacrificed at the altar of industry. People who contend that industrialisation is not possible, or at any rate cannot be ensured because of the forest areas and the Government's disinclination to permit destruction of forests to make land available for factories, do have a point. Where are industries to be established if land is not cleared of forests to the extent necessary?

Arguments Against the View

1. India is industrially not so advanced as it should be from the standpoint of economic development. Preservation of wildlife and of the environment is undeniably important but a balance can certainly be struck and methods devised to maintain the ratio of forests and land put to industrial and other uses. Scientific and systematic practices need to be adopted in order to achieve both objectives.

2. The experience of progressive countries has shown that reckless, ill-planned policies, either in respect of forests or for all-out establishment of industrial plants regardless of the pollution of the atmosphere, are not justifiable. Land utilisation policies should safeguard the interests of both—forests and industry. Waste of

space should be avoided and only the necessary area utilised for factories (modern techniques and streamlining of production methods certainly help to achieve this aim). In advanced countries the most economical use of land is made, reckless destruction of trees is avoided, and yet adequate production is ensured. Japan and England, for instance, are very small countries. Even so, these are highly industrialised and no space is wasted. India is a vast country and land can be found for industry, agriculture and forests. What is needed is sound planning and cooperation of all sections of society to put the land resources to the best possible use.

Rural and Urban Poverty

Q. 2. People from rural areas are poorer than those from urban areas. Give at least three possible reasons for your view about this matter.

Ans. About 80 per cent of India's vast population of over 85 crore lives in rural areas and most of them are poverty stricken. Millions of them do not have adequate means of subsistence and their basic needs are not being met. They present a picture of utter destitution. They do not have enough to eat; they are ill clad and do not even get two square meals a day. There are various reasons for this distressing phenomenon of stark poverty:

One. Apart from a small percentage of people who have adequate land for agriculture, the well-off, even prosperous, landlords, the majority of the rural people have very small badly fragmented land holdings. These pieces of land do not yield enough grain or other produce to sustain the tillers and their families. So they have to borrow money from the money lenders, the "bania", or the landlords. This leads to intense poverty. The Government's

poverty alleviation programmes make little impact because of mismanagement and corruption. Most of them have no reserves to fall back upon.

Two. There is considerable exploitation of the landless labourers by the landlords and others who hold them in bondage on one count or another. The debt burden of such people goes on increasing as the years pass, causing much misery and making life a virtual nightmare. The poor people have to take loans for food, for various social purposes such as marriages of their children and various ceremonies. Moreover the money lenders cheat them, charge them high interest. The poor exploited people do not have means even to pay the interest, not to speak of the principal amount.

Three. Illiteracy and unemployment are among the other causes that contribute to the poverty of the masses in the countryside. It has been widely noticed that where there is illiteracy, there is poverty and virtual destitution. And where the people remain jobless, they have no avenues to earn their livelihood.

Machines and Manpower

Q. 3. In a country like India, where there is large-scale unemployment, manpower should not be replaced by machines. Explain and substantiate your stand, giving instances and examples from your own experience, reading and knowledge.

Ans. Man himself has devised machines as labour saving and convenient devices to avoid drudgery and expedite the various productive processes. But in the course of centuries man versus machine has become a debatable question.

There is a great deal of truth and justification in the view that we should not promote the use of more and more machines that replace human beings in factories and on farms. The extent of unemployment in this country has reached disconcerting dimensions. Already, the number of the unemployed people seeking wholetime jobs has reached 23 million despite the plans drawn up by the Government from time to

time to generate employment in various fields.

The process of mechanisation has undeniably thrown many young men and women out of jobs. Industrialists, manufacturers and others induct more and more machines to save time, expedite and increase production and achieve other economic objectives. The employment market has consequently shrunk and opportunities for jobless people have been reduced to some extent.

But in my view it would be a great mistake to halt the process of mechanisation in agriculture and industry simply to accommodate more men and women in jobs. The introduction of machines of various types has helped economic progress; in fact, mechanisation, regardless of its negative side in the shape of increasing unemployment, is the price of progress and development. Surely, this country cannot afford to remain backward and halt the adoption of mechanical processes simply to ensure employment even through outdated methods of production. Continuous living in an age of the bullock-cart would not be advisable.

As for providing employment to jobless people, other steps can be taken, and in fact are being taken, to generate more employment opportunities. Every Five Year Plan, especially the Eighth Plan, lays stress on creating employment opportunities through economic development, establishing more industries and expanding the existing ones.

I have noted that in several offices and establishments (the L.I.C., banks etc.) computers, calculators and other machines have been put in use. The employees thus rendered superfluous have been diverted to other branches of activity. There are hardly any examples of large-scale unemployment as a sequel to introduction of machines to expedite work and increase the output. Suitable adjustments have been made to absorb people. Work continues to increase and more hands are required to run the machines. This assessment is based on study and experience of many people.

Importance of Mountains

Q. 4. Suppose we do not have big mountains. Give at least four possible consequences if such a situation arises.

Ans. Mountains exist in almost all continents and they have many uses for mankind. Because of their great size and grandeur, mountains have always been thought of as having unchanging strength and many poets have spoken of them as "everlasting hills". The geologists, however, have proof to show that they are not permanent features. They were formed by certain changes in the earth and are being slowly but surely eroded by other changes. The Himalayas are supposed to be young; like the Alps they are made largely of rock which was once under the sea.

First. If there had been no mountains, mankind would have been deprived of much mineral wealth. This would have been a notable loss.

Second. Mountains cause heavy rains and snow on the slopes. As air crosses them and becomes cool, moisture turns into rain which is very important for all countries, especially those which depend on it for irrigation and other uses.

Third. Mountains have large, dense forests which are a great boon to humanity. We would be deprived of timber and other produce. A considerable number of wild animals live there. Without big mountains and dense forests mankind would be at a great disadvantage.

Fourth. Mountains serve as barriers to human beings and in this way they have made history. The Alps saved Italy from invasion by barbarians from the north. The Himalayas have acted as a great protective shield for India. Big mountain ranges serve much better than rivers as political boundaries.

Fifth. There had been no mountains, mankind would not have developed mountaineering as a popular sport and pastime.

Mountains are a wonder of Nature and provide a beautiful sight to behold. The earth would be a dull, flat plain if there had been no hills, mountains and valleys.

Notes on Current Affairs

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

♦ INDIA-CHINA TALKS ON BORDER ♦ INDIA BANS LTTE ♦ JOBS FOR ALL BY 2002
♦ RS 7,98,000 CRORE EIGHTH PLAN APPROVED ♦ PAC RAPS DEFENCE MINISTRY
♦ POLL FOR INDIA'S PRESIDENT ♦ INDIAN DIPLOMAT ASSAULTED
♦ INDIA-BANGLADESH ACCORDS ♦ INDIA'S DISMAL R & D RECORD ♦

India-China Talks on Border

MR R. Venkataraman's 6-day trip to China (May 19-25), the first by the President of India, generated much goodwill but, as was believed, it did not help to solve the major pending problems. The boundary question was not actively pursued; however the two countries expressed keenness to improve relations notwithstanding the non-resolution of the vital question.

This was evident from the meetings President Venkataraman had with Mr Jiang Zemin, Secretary-General of the Chinese Communist Party, and Mr Li Peng, Prime Minister, in Beijing on May 19.

Mr Jiang Zemin, as well as Mr Li Peng, stressed that the boundary question was too complex to permit hopes of an early solution. They were of the view that time and patience were needed before the two countries could go on for a boundary settlement. India's President stressed that even, if the settlement of the boundary question was likely to take time, steps must be taken to see that force was never used to disturb peace and tranquillity along the border. To maintain peace along the border, senior army officers of India and China are likely to meet during the next few weeks. One of these meetings is to take place in the Eastern Sector and the other in the Western Sector.

The idea that emerged from the talks Mr Li Peng had with the Indian Prime Minister in December last is to plan on the ground confidence-building measures so that no incident takes place along the border to create

misunderstandings between the two countries.

President Venkataraman also referred to the forthcoming visit of the Defence Minister, Mr Sharad Pawar, to China. This would provide another opportunity for the two countries to discuss steps for promoting mutual confidence.

The Joint Working Group, set up to search for a solution of the boundary question, is likely to meet shortly. The work it has done so far was briefly reviewed at the meeting the Foreign Secretary, Mr J.N. Dixit, had with his Chinese counterpart, Mr Xu Dunxin.

The Chinese Prime Minister suggested to the President that it was necessary for the two countries to give a political directive to the Joint Working Group to speed up the search of the boundary question. The basic thrust of the Chinese leaders was that more time and patience were needed for a settlement of the boundary question. This suggests the low priority the boundary settlement has acquired in the process.

The question of Tibet, to which the Chinese attach considerable importance, also came up. The Chinese leaders were not happy about the Dalai Lama's activities and utterances. Mr Venkataraman reiterated India's stand that Tibet is an autonomous region of China. He also said India did not support Dalai Lama's political activities.

India Bans LTTE

AFTER dithering for many months, despite the mounting evidence of unlawful activity by LTTE, the Government of India on May 14 imposed a ban on the militant

organisation. The Government announced that it would take all possible steps to get the extradition of the LTTE supremo V. Prabhakaran and his associates for trial in India in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. The question of extradition of Prabhakaran has been taken up with the Sri Lankan Government.

Home Minister Chavan explained that while no political party would be victimised following the ban, no one would be spared for any support to the activities of the LTTE under cover of any political activity.

As long as the LTTE fought for autonomy for Jaffna, the Indian Government had lent its support to its cause. But India never supported the LTTE's battle for an independent Jaffna or Tamil Eelam.

The government could not remain quiet when the LTTE extended its activities to India and indulged in acts prejudicial to the sovereignty of the country.

The Government knew of the links established by the LTTE with ULFA in Assam which had already been banned. The Government's decision would strengthen the hands of the Tamil Nadu Government and the Centre in containing LTTE activities and eliminating the threat posed to the country by the organisation.

Sri Lanka's Refusal: Despite an Indian ban on the Tamil militant organisation, official sources said, President Premadasa wanted to keep the doors open for future negotiations with the LTTE and the Government decided that a ban on the LTTE would hamper any possible future negotiations. Furthermore, a ban at this stage would be disastrous for the efforts to find a solution to the ethnic problem in the north and east. However, he clarified that the decision not to ban the LTTE should not be seen as an effort to whitewash the LTTE.

Jobs for all by 2002

INDIA'S planners have formulated schemes according to which the country would overcome its unemployment problem and attain a "near-full employment" by 2002 AD. The Eighth Plan document envisages this scenario, based on an annual employment growth of 2.6 per cent to 2.8 per cent over the next 10 years—1992 to 2002—which it considers "within the realm of feasibility".

Employment generation is the number one priority of the Eighth Plan. The number of persons looking for full time new employment opportunities was estimated at around 23 million on April 1, 1992, when the Eighth Plan commenced—two years late.

The labour force is projected to increase by about 35 million during 1992-97 and by another 36 million during 1997-2002. Thus the total number of persons requiring employment will be about 94 million over the next 10 years and 58 million during the Eighth Plan period. The employment growth will have to be 4 per cent a year if the goal of providing employment to all is to be achieved by the end of the Eighth Plan and around 3 per cent if it is to be attained by 2002.

The envisaged GDP growth during the Eighth Plan is 5.6 per cent. This is expected to result in an employment growth of 2.6 per cent to 2.8 per cent per year or an average of about eight to nine million additional employment opportunities a year.

A continuation of employment growth of the Eighth Plan into the Ninth plan (1997-2002), implying an average of 9.5 million job opportunities per year should "reduce unemployment to a negligible level by 2002 by and large, taking care of the backlog along with the addition of 36 million in the labour force during 1997-2002", according to the document.

The main elements of the strategy and programmes suggested for the expansion of employment opportunities are: a faster and geographically diversified growth of

agriculture, development of infrastructure and marketing arrangements for agro-based and allied activities in the rural areas, greater attention to the needs of the small and decentralised manufacturing sector as a major source of industrial growth, especially in the production of consumption goods and manufactured exports, large-scale programmes of construction of infrastructure and residential houses; strengthening of basic health and education facilities; facilities for faster growth of the services and informal sector activities; relaxation of legislative and policy measures found to restrict employment growth.

Rs 7,98,000 crore Eighth Plan Approved

THE National Development Council, barring reservations from West Bengal Chief Minister on March 29, endorsed the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97), envisaging a GDP growth rate of 5.6 per cent with an overall outlay of Rs 7,98,000 crore to eliminate unemployment and poverty.

The plan is already two years late. It came into force with effect from April 1, 1992. The highest policy-making body approved the Planning Commission's document after a consensus was reached on revamping the rural development schemes in view of the emphasis on the social sector in the plan. On the revamping of rural development schemes the consensus was that the Centre would develop a basket of schemes in the sector which would lead to the creation of durable assets to rural people.

The outlay for the rural development had been raised substantially to Rs 30,000 crore in the Eighth Plan. It had to be ensured that the new schemes formulated for rural development were flexible and suited to the ground realities. The State governments would have the flexibility to select the schemes or suitably alter them to suit the needs of their States. The schemes would be finalised after consultations with the State governments.

The consensus was arrived at

after discussions with the Chief Ministers who wanted the transfer of rural development schemes to the States. They were told that such a transfer would affect the allocation of resources.

The total budgetary support in the social sector in the Eighth Plan would be about 80 per cent against 70 per cent in the Seventh Plan. In the State sector realisation in the plan outlay was going down from plan to plan, touching only 49 per cent in the Seventh Plan against the target of 46 per cent.

PAC raps Defence Ministry

THE Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has strongly criticised the Ministry of Defence for its failure to develop and produce a trainer aircraft which has entailed a "huge infructuous" expenditure of Rs 37 crore. In its 25th report on the development and production of a trainer aircraft, presented to the Lok Sabha by its chairman, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the committee asked the Government to "draw suitable lessons from the sad experience" from this project and take corrective steps to obviate the chances of such recurrences in the future.

The Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL) delivered two trainer aircraft to the Indian Air Force (IAF), one in December 1987 and the other in April 1988. The first trainer aircraft was inducted in squadron service in December, 1987, while the second was inducted in April, 1988.

The PAC regretted that the utilisation rate achieved by these trainer aircraft was extremely poor as it ranged from 0.15 to 5.30 hours per month during January 1988 to May 1990. The PAC noted with concern the "inordinate" delay in the development and production of a trainer aircraft, resulting in enormous increase in costs. It pointed out that while the cost of development increased from Rs 4.16 crore to Rs 14.42 crore the cost of production of two trainer aircraft went up to Rs 4.42 crore from Rs 1 crore each.

Further, the "redundant" material, due to the foreclosure of the project, had been of the order of Rs

19.18 crore out of which HAL could so far utilise the material worth Rs 82 lakh only. The PAC said "the more distressing fact is that the two trainer aircraft which were produced by HAL after strenuous efforts of more than 12 years were phased out."

Poll for India's President

THE five-year term of President R. Venkataraman is to expire on July 24 and the election to fill this vacancy is to be held on July 13 in such a way that the process will be completed in good time. The coming presidential election will be the 10th in the series. The earlier elections to this office were held in 1952, 57, 62, 67, 69, 74, 77, 82 and 1987.

The President is elected by members of an electoral college consisting of (A) the elected members of both Houses of Parliament and (B) the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the State (Article 54). The Constitution stipulates that there shall be uniformity, as far as practicable, in the scale of representation of the different States at the election (Article 55). For securing such uniformity among the States, inter-State as well as parity between the States as a whole and the Union. A formula is given in the Constitution for determination of the value of the vote which each elected member of Parliament and of the Legislative Assembly of each State is entitled to cast.

The total value of votes for the poll will be 1,089,723,28 votes less than during the 1987 elections. This follows the increase in the number of seats in the Assemblies of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Jammu and Kashmir. The change of vote value in Jammu and Kashmir, however, is of little consequence for the elections as there is no duly elected Assembly in the State, now under President's rule.

This was revealed in an Election Commission Press note on the electoral college for the presidential elections. The value of votes of a Member of Parliament will be 702 as in the last elections and the total value of votes for the 776 MPs will be 544. 543 members of the Lok Sabha and 233 of the Rajya Sabha are eligible to vote in the election. The total value of votes of

3972 MLAs in 25 States is 544,971,28 less than the total value of votes in the 1987 election.

Independents and others can tilt the balance in favour of the ruling Congress in the presidential elections in the unlikely event of the combined opposition putting up a common candidate. An analysis of the presidential electoral college shows that the Congress is comfortably placed with 4.98 lakh votes and it should have an easy way given the present division in the opposition camp.

Indian Diplomat Assaulted

VIOATING well-known rules, regulations and diplomatic conventions, some Pakistanis brutally assaulted an Indian Embassy counsellor, Mr Rajesh Mittal, in Islamabad on May 24. He was subjected to torture, cruelly beaten up for several hours and even given electric shocks to force him to sign a confession that he was receiving secret documents from a Pakistani. His condition was stated to be serious. Mr Mittal was later expelled from that country. The Pakistanis' act was indefensible and caused strains in Indo-Pak relations. The sixth round of Secretary-level talks, scheduled to be held early in June, were cancelled because of the incident.

The Government took the step "in the face of the unthinkable inhuman and brutal treatment meted out" to Mr Rajesh Mittal. New Delhi viewed the incident with the utmost seriousness and concern. "We find it extraordinary that such crude attempts have been indulged in by way of what may be a response to the Indian authorities having apprehended about eight weeks ago several Pakistani intelligence operatives in Delhi and Punjab", said an Indian spokesman. The operatives had been "caught red-handed".

After the assault on Mr Mittal, the Government of India expelled two Pakistani diplomats, declaring them "persona non-grata". The Government charged that both counsellors had been acting "in violation of accepted norms of diplomatic functioning" and indulging in "ac-

tivities which are clearly prejudicial to the security of India"—a euphemism for espionage.

Since India observes the Vienna convention regarding protection of diplomats, it does not ill-treat foreign diplomats.

India-Bangladesh Accords

BANGLADESH Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's three-day visit to New Delhi (May 26-28) helped to remove certain misunderstandings and create a favourable climate for establishing a cordial relationship between the two neighbours. The talks were however a partial success because only a few problems could be tackled. Certain agreements were reached, the most notable being the one on the long-pending issue of *Tin Bigha* corridor.

Under the agreement, India will allow the eastern neighbour to use a strip of land for six hours a day for people in Dahagram enclave to cross over to mainland Bangladesh to buy goods, reach hospitals and send children for higher studies.

India had agreed to lease the corridor soon after the 1947 partition and a regular treaty was drafted and initialled by Nehru and Feroze Khan Noon (P.M. of undivided Pakistan in the fifties). It was gone over later by Indira Gandhi and Mujibur Rahman in the early seventies, only to be taken up a decade later. The issue was referred to the Supreme Court for its opinion, which upheld the lease of the land without giving up sovereignty.

The BJP is perhaps the only political party that has for years been opposed to any such accord on *Tin Bigha*. The fact that no land has been given away or transferred but only leased out is evidently being overlooked by some people in a bid to achieve political benefits.

River Waters Issue: Bangladesh agreed to bring not only the Ganga and the Teesta but also other major rivers in the region within the purview of the long-term and comprehensive arrangement to be worked out for the sharing of waters.

The Ministers concerned had

been asked to "make renewed endeavours for achieving an acceptable settlement, including interim arrangements for sharing the Ganga waters during the dry season

Taking into account the problems being caused due to large-scale immigration of people across their borders, the two sides expressed their determination to stop illegal movement of people across the border by all possible means, including the strengthening of the existing arrangements and mutual cooperation in this regard.

With an obvious reference to India's concern about support received by insurgent groups like the United Liberation Front of Asom from certain elements in Bangladesh, both sides resolved to take effective measures in order to maintain peace and tranquillity all along the border and to refrain from "unfriendly activity". The two leaders agreed to arrange speedy repatriation of all Chakma refugees to Bangladesh

About the Chakma issue Mr Rao said "categorically and unequivocally" that India did not want a single Chakma refugee to remain on the Indian soil. There are 55,000 Chakma refugees living mainly in Tripura.

India's Dismal R & D Record

THE latest findings of the World Bank reveal that several small countries of the East are far ahead of India in research and development. Even Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Indonesia are ahead of this country in this regard. In this context, India's claim that it has the third largest pool of scientists and engineers in the world loses much of its validity. UNESCO statistics show that India had only 132 scientists and engineers in R and D per million of the population as compared to 1,426 in Taiwan, 1,283 in Korea, 960 in Singapore, 217 in Mexico, 152 in Indonesia and 150 in Thailand. In the sample taken by the Bank, only Kenya is behind India. Japan, the second economic super power in the world, has 4,569.

"It is apparent", says the publica-

tion, "that R and D intensities are strikingly similar to the human capital endowments. Korea and Taiwan have invested heavily in R and D. Korea leads the sample and the whole developing world in total R and D deflated by GNP. It has also surpassed the OECD countries like Spain, Italy, Austria, Denmark or Finland". By the turn of the century Korea plans to spend 5 per cent of GNP on R and D far exceeding the current levels by Germany, Japan or the United States.

India looks good only when the actual number of science and engineering students is counted, and

this is because of her huge population as compared to Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Brazil, Mexico, Thailand, Indonesia and Kenya. But percentage-wise, she fares badly against most countries.

It is a totally different story when the percentage of engineers in the population is taken into account. Then the Indian figure is a miserable 0.06, as compared to 0.68 of Taiwan, 0.54 Korea, 0.61 Singapore, 0.41 Hong Kong, 0.35 Mexico, and 0.13 Brazil. Kenya is the worst with a figure of 0.02. Other figures for science, vocational training, etc., show the same trend.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

♦ EARTH SUMMIT AT RIO ♦ AFGHAN PRESIDENT CRITICISES INDIA ♦ NEW C I S DEFENCE PACT ♦ "BIG FIVE" ACCORD ON WEAPONS ♦ UN IMPOSES SANCTIONS ON YUGOSLAVIA ♦ THAILAND END OF ARMY RULE ♦ KABUL-PAK LINKS ♦ GREATER ROLE FOR NAM ♦

Earth Summit at Rio

THE largest-ever gathering of Heads of State, with U.S. President George Bush among over 120 world leaders attending the entire or part of the discussions, assembled at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), for a 12-day session (June 3 to 14). Officially named the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the session was designed to find ways to check the environmental degradation and thus save the earth from disaster. The preparatory meetings pitted rich nations against the poor ones (broadly, North v. South) in an attempt to halt destruction of the environment while encouraging economic growth. The 15,000 delegates salvaged several key agreements on vital issues concerning the vast humanity, but because of the opposition by the U.S.-led group they were toned down. The developing countries sought more aid to help meet the cost of environmental protection and to conquer poverty which the various countries argued, is the root cause of environmental degradation. Brazil's President aptly presented the issue thus: "We cannot have an environmentally sound planet in a socially unjust world."

Mr Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General called for the "Pol-

luter Pays Principle" to check the deteriorating situation. He blamed the rich nations for the increase in the earth's temperature and the Greenhouse Effect, but he also said the poor nations were at fault for destruction of their resources. "The earth is sick from under-development and also sick from excessive development."

Among those who addressed the conference were Kings, Presidents, Prime Ministers, other Ministers and environment experts.

The seven critical issues dealt with by the conference were: global warming, technology transfer, ocean pollution, forest protection, population control, the preservation of species and environmentally safe development. It has been found that carbon dioxide is the leading contributor to global warming. The biggest culprit in this regard is the USA.

Global Green Fund:

Malaysia, a pioneer in the fast spreading environment preservation movement, has pleaded for the establishment of a global "Green Fund", for which every country would be committed to covering at least 30 per cent of its area with forests by 2,000 A.D. At present 27.6 per cent of the globe is green. Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, proposed this while inaugurating the second

ministerial conference of developing countries on environment and development at Kuala Lumpur.

A Malaysian official document lists India as having thus covered 21.5 per cent of its surface. However, this includes all land classified as "forest" whereas degraded forest areas would reduce this percentage by half. Most European countries fare poorly; UK with 8 per cent, the Netherlands 9 per cent and Switzerland 25 per cent.

The global fund's contributions would be based on population wealth and ability to meet greening targets. The Malaysian Government's document mentions that though Japan has two-thirds of its land under forests, "it is certain to be a willing contributor to greening elsewhere".

India's plea: India's Minister for Environment and Forests, Mr Kamal Nath told the conference that the establishment of a new global partnership in tackling environmental issues should be based on sound principles and not on charity or on unilateral action.

The new global partnership should be based on common concern, transparent responsibility and credibility. India has been of the view that there were four essential ingredients for building the new global partnership. They are: Thrust—giving equal weightage to the concern of all nations; Goal—focussing on the restoration for the entire environment through a massive programme of re-greening the earth; Nature—requiring the U.N. a stronger role in dealing with these matters; and Continuity—of the new partnership calling for separate mechanisms to ensure transfer of new and additional financial resources and environmentally sound technology on preferential concessional and non-commercial terms to make the technological transition to sustainable development.

Call to North: Fifty-five developing countries ended their Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development with a call to the North to come out with a firm

commitment on the management of Global Environmental Facility (GEF). Malaysia stressed that a commitment was necessary because the North and other donor countries had not given any clear indication on the matter.

The U.N. Conference on Environment Development (UNCED) has estimated that the annual external financing required to implement item number 21 on the conference's agenda was of the order of US \$ 125 billion.

The conference gave a call to all countries to bring at least 30 per cent of their land under forests, for reducing the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere as part of the global greening programme. India impressed upon the developed world that environmental protection should not be considered a commercial proposition but a common goal. India has pledged US \$ 4 million for the global environment development.

Expensive venture: The World Bank, acknowledging that environmental protection is good economics, has stated that additional investment between \$ 75 billion and \$ 140 billion will be needed in the next 10 years for sustainable economic development in developing countries. The developed countries should share the major part of this burden, according to the Bank's World Development Report, 1992. Though these investments will pay for themselves, increased international support will be essential. The report explores the link between economic development and the environment.

The report has calculated that \$ 75 billion (Rs 232,500 crore) or 1.4 per cent of the combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of developing countries would be needed to stabilise soil conditions, improve air and water quality, a doubling of family planning expenditures, sharply improved school enrolment rates for girls, and universal access to sanitation and clean water by 2030.

Costs will be higher if an allowance is made for forest protection rehabilitation of environmentally degraded areas, and clean-up; about

\$ 140 billion (Rs 434,000 crore) or two to three per cent of combined GDP of developing countries by 2000 AD. The Bank says high income countries must play a major role in financing the protection of natural habitats in developing countries from which the whole world benefits. They must also assume the primary responsibility for addressing worldwide problems of which they are the primary cause (green house warming and depletion of stratospheric ozone).

According to the report, finding, implementing and financing solutions will require a partnership of effort among nations. Improved know-how, new technologies, and increased investment are essential. Open trade and capital markets, the restoration of creditworthiness through policy reform and selective debt relief and robust, environmentally responsible growth in the world economy will be affected.

The financing of environmental investments will require an increase in export earnings and expansion of private and official capital flows to developing countries in the coming decades. Developing countries are currently hampered by import restrictions, which in some industrial countries have become tighter in recent years. A successful conclusion to the Uruguay round of trade negotiations that reduced by one-half the tariff and non-tariff barriers in the main industrial countries would generate additional annual export earnings in developing countries of \$ 65 billion by 2000 AD.

The report's principal co-author said the key message from the bank is that the protection of environment is an essential part of development. Without adequate environmental protection, development is undermined; without development resources will be inadequate for needed investments, and environmental protection will fail.

The report emphasises that the coming decades will present unprecedented challenges and opportunities. Between 1990 and 2030, as the world's population grows by 3.7 billion, food production will need to double, and industrial output and

energy use will probably triple worldwide and increase five-fold in developing countries.

This growth brings with it the risk of appalling environmental damage. Alternatively, it could bring with it better environmental protection, cleaner air and water and the virtual elimination of acute poverty.

The report says inadequate attention has been given to the environmental problems that damage the health and productivity of the largest number of people, especially the poor. Priority should be given to: The one-third of the world's population that has inadequate sanitation and the one billion without safe water; the 1.3 billion people who are exposed to unsafe conditions caused by soot and smoke; the hundreds of millions of farmers, forest dwellers, and indigenous people who rely on the land and whose livelihood depends on good environmental stewardship.

Tackling the environmental problems faced by these people will require better progress in reducing poverty and raising productivity.

Asian Regional Meet: The Club of Rome's first Regional Conference, held in the Japanese city of Fukuoka (May 12 to 14) this year, highlighted the fact that the earth has become "a very sick planet" and urgently needs a cure. A disaster is looming unless everybody joins hands to take on the environmental dangers and to find ways to halt the march to mankind's destruction. The people of the world have inflicted environmental pollution on the planet, thereby contributing increasingly to the destruction of life on earth. This was repeatedly emphasised by speakers at the Asian regional meeting. Attention to the dangers being posed to the very life of humankind was drawn by members of the Club of Rome from eight countries in Europe, Asia and the Americas who took part in the conference.

The Club of Rome is an international organisation which seeks to explore ways of offering a solution to the growing dangers facing mankind, such as the draining of resources, environmental pollution

and the explosive increase of population in the developing countries.

All the speakers drew attention to the shortcomings of one sort or another in both industrialised and developing countries and to the importance of adequately plans to meet the growing environmental pollution problems. The President of the Club of Rome gave the gravest warning of a coming disaster unless all people of the world joined hands to squarely meet the environmental dangers and find quick and suitable ways of overcoming what would otherwise be a march down the path of destruction of mankind.

Continued economic growth, together with widespread mismanagement of resources, was having an explosive impact on the environment everywhere. Population explosion and the use of energy posed other dangers. If the right effort was made to stop these dangers, the globe could be saved in 20 years, otherwise there would be a global collapse.

The world's population was 32 billion in 1972 but in just 20 years, it had risen to 56 billion; and is sure to reach over six billion by the end of this century.

Pollution continues to increase, endangering the lives of people the world over and adversely affecting food production.

Fukuoka declaration The participants in the Club of Rome conference issued a declaration which recognised how the short-sightedness of the modern man has contributed critically to the destruction of the environment. The role and responsibility of the young all over the world in adapting human behaviour to the requirements of a harmonious life with the rhythms of nature are important. The value systems need to be reconsidered.

The Declaration called on Japan to take a stronger leadership role in the world community with regard to some of these issues, including the inter-related questions of environment and development. On such issues the tradition and the achievements of Japan might provide

a model for the world community.

The Declaration said the apparent conflict between development and environmental conservation demonstrates the mutual vulnerability of both the developed and the developing countries. It said: "Support by the North for development in the South is no longer a matter of charity but rather a matter of mutual enlightened self-interest. Future harmony in the world necessitates joint action and hence partnership. The Declaration sought the creation within the UN of an Environmental Security Council, which should be relayed by National Security Councils on Environment to be established in each country. It also called for the launching of a World Programme of Energy Conservation and Efficiency and recommended a World Research Programme on alternative energies.

Fruitless talks: Hundreds of delegates and representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) from all over the world, preparing for the Rio earth summit, ended their five-week long discussions at the UN without reaching any agreement on substantive issues. Vast differences continued to exist between the developing and the developed countries on the funding for cleaning up the earth's atmosphere, the transfer of environmentally friendly technologies from the rich to the poor and the mechanisms through which funds would be channelled as delegates walked out of the final session. Shortly before the meeting ended, the Secretary-General of the conference conceded that sharp differences still existed on substantive issues.

The conference secretariat has calculated that \$ 125 billion in foreign aid will be needed by the developing countries every year for the cleaning up operation and improving the environment. But several delegates said the figure is on the lower side. Besides, the developing nations will themselves have to find four to five times this amount. Out of \$ 125 billion, the developing nations are already getting around \$ 50 billion.

Ms Barbara Bramble of the Na-

tional Wildlife Federation, speaking on behalf of a broad coalition of environmental groups in the U.S.A. and abroad, said the U.S. is "seeking to remove every reference to implementation" of any environmental programme. U.S. negotiators have also sought to remove a requirement that nations submit annual progress reports on their environmental activities.

The environmentalists released a report card that gave the U.S. poor grades for its participation, its positions, its willingness to accept change and its proposed solutions. Europe and other countries fared slightly better.

The Earth Summit, otherwise known as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, or UNCED, was conceived as a landmark conference that could lead to new international law and to better cooperation among industrialised and developing countries. It came 20 years after the Stockholm conference which led to the establishment of the U.N. Environment Programme and to important international environmental agreements.

The negotiations have been marked by endless arguments and debate over documents hundreds of pages long, participants said. "It will take about 1,000 years for the UN to save the planet", said Mr Peter Padbury, representing Canadian environmental and development groups. "This is yet another UN conference in which the political commitment is not there", said a representative of the European environmental groups. "We're going through the motions."

Afghan President criticises India

EVEN while professing friendship with India, the interim President of Afghanistan, Prof Mojadidi has indirectly criticised some of this country's policies. India's treatment of its Muslim minority will be an important factor in determining the nature of Afghanistan's relations between the two countries, he said on May 18.

In India there are millions of Muslim people and they must be in peace in India. They must have their rights in India. They must be free in India, as other Indians are. "In Afghanistan we give Sikhs and Hindus the same rights as the Afghan people."

Asked if he believed Indian Muslims were discriminated against, the Afghan President said "we have some information that they have not got all their rights in India."

He made it clear that he stood for some form of self-determination for the Kashmiri people. It is the right of the Kashmiri people to decide about this. The majority people of Kashmir are Muslims. In Hyderabad (Deccan) there were 70 per cent Hindus but they were captured by the Indian Government. Now in Kashmir the majority is Muslim. It would be better to give the right to the people to decide about this—a referendum as mentioned in UN General Assembly resolution.

Prof Mojadidi agreed that the quality of Afghanistan's relations with India and Pakistan had now reversed. Historically during the last 40 years Afghanistan had good relations with India and troubled relations with Pakistan. The Afghan President accepted that today the opposite was the case. But he made it clear that his views about the treatment of Indian Muslims and about Kashmir was not a condition so much as "a request". They say that they are a democratic government; so every nation, every religion's people who are living in India, must get their rights.

New C.I.S. Defence Pact

THE fifth summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States, held in Tashkent in mid-May, was the worst attended but the most productive. Five out of 11 heads of State, for different reasons, failed to turn up in the capital of Uzbekistan. This did not prevent the other six from adopting some key documents, including a collective security treaty. There is a new tendency in the alliance. Republics which favour closer ties are prepared to develop them despite

the objections of others who want the Commonwealth to remain a loose union.

Originally, the common defence pact was conceived as a bilateral arrangement between Russia and Kazakhstan. They formed a single security system and signed an economic and military cooperation treaty. The accord was also backed by three Central Asian republics and Armenia.

Another reason why the Central Asian republics joined the security treaty is that their efforts to build a regional grouping so far made little progress. Their recent meeting in Ashgabad, capital of Turkmenia, with the leaders of Turkey, Iran and Pakistan, produced few results because of deep differences among the Central Asian leaders over the principles of their political and economic integration.

In the opinion of Russia's State Secretary, the collective security treaty signed in Tashkent could become a basis for a confederation of former Soviet republics. The joining of the collective security arrangement by Armenia but not by Azerbaijan may prove a "time bomb" for the treaty. The republics are yet to resolve their economic differences, which they again failed to tackle in Tashkent.

"Big Five" accord on Weapons

AFTER prolonged negotiations in Washington, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council—the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China—on May 30 reached an agreement on a set of 10 guidelines to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. The guidelines also affirm the announcements made by each party of its commitment to support the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

Russia and China are not signatories to the MTCR but, according to a senior State Department official, China has agreed not to transfer ballistic missiles which are covered by the MTCR. They did this before, but

now they have done it publicly. The five powers also agreed on a set of guidelines on conventional transfer of arms to countries in the West Asian region. The guidelines are interim; details remain to be worked out.

These guidelines relating to weapons of mass destruction are: Not assist, directly or indirectly, in the development, acquisition, manufacture, testing, stockpiling or deployment of weapons of mass destruction by any non-nuclear weapons States; promptly notify the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of the export to a non-nuclear weapons State of any nuclear materials, equipment or facilities and place them under IAEA safeguards; exercise restraint in the transfer of sensitive nuclear facilities, technology, and weapons-usable material; strictly abide by the convention on bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons; and not assist in the manufacture of biological weapons.

On nuclear non-proliferation, the guidelines call upon States which had not yet signed the treaty to do so. On proliferation of ballistic missiles, they expressed concern over the sales of ballistic missiles of 1000 to 1,500 km range still being made by North Korea.

Bush Policy on N-tests: U.S. President George Bush is considering plans suggesting limiting of nuclear tests to three a year and, possibly, halting testing by 1995, under pressure from congress to respond to Russian and French moratorium on nuclear tests. The recent megaton Chinese test, and reports that China may conduct another soon, are believed to be weighing heavily on the minds of U.S. policy makers.

The U.S. thinks that national security would be endangered if China continued to conduct megaton nuclear tests and came up with deadlier inter-continental missiles.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin has warned that if the U.S. does not respond to his unilaterally proclaimed moratorium, he will resume testing. French President Francois Mitterrand has also asked the U.S. to join the moratorium. Both

the U.S. and the U.K. have so far resisted his plea. The reason why President Reagan has insisted on giving full freedom to nuclear-weapon designers in the U.S., presumably, is to develop third generation nuclear arms. However a decade of research in the U.S., costing billions of dollars, has failed to produce these weapons.

Later messages stated that the U.S. President is not considering any plan to reduce the number of nuclear tests, despite the danger that Russia and France may resume tests if their proposals for a moratorium are rebuffed.

UN imposes sanctions on Yugoslavia

THE Security Council on May 30 clamped tough comprehensive and mandatory sanctions on Yugoslavia for failing to stop the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The sanctions include a worldwide ban on trade and oil sales but exempted food under pressure from India and some other members, and medicines on humanitarian grounds.

The sanctions, designed to force Belgrade stop intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina where ethnic violence has been escalating with massacres of civilians, make it compulsory for all States to cut off air links, freeze its assets and reduce its diplomatic staff. India was among the 13 members of the 15-member Security Council who voted in favour of the resolution which makes Yugoslavia the third to come under international sanctions after Iraq and Libya.

Even as the Council imposed sanctions, it came under renewed pressure to enforce a naval blockade to ensure that the sanctions are complied with and to secure its air space so that its aircraft do not attack areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina where Serbs are trying to squeeze out Muslims from several areas to make them ethnically pure. China and Zimbabwe abstained from the voting on the resolution.

Sanctions against Serbia: The Bush administration on May 29 slapped political, diplomatic and economic sanctions against Serbia for

perpetuating a humanitarian nightmare against its neighbours in the Balkans. The U.S. might consider military action to end the civil strife in what used to be Yugoslavia but only as a last resort if all other efforts fail.

Mr Baker announced the following measures to punish the Serbs for the bloodshed in Bosnia-Herzegovina: U.S. Ambassador will not return to Belgrade; U.S. contacts with the Yugoslav military will be suspended; Yugoslav consulates in San Francisco and New York will be closed. The U.S. would not recognise the federation of Serbia and Montenegro as the successor of Yugoslavia "until all forces are withdrawn from neighbouring States and minority rights are respected".

Serb-led forces defied the UN sanctions and unleashed a barrage of shells and rockets on Sarajevo that left the city strewn with corpses. It was the fiercest Serb-led bombardment of Bosnia-Herzegovina's capital in two months of ethnic warfare there.

Thailand: End of Army Rule

FOR six decades and more, Thailand was virtually under military rule during which the country suffered a terrible bloody ordeal and witnessed a series of political crises. Prime Minister Gen Suchinda had to resign in the last week of May. The demand for democracy has lately been mounting in that country. On May 26 the administration lifted the state of emergency declared at the start of bloody clashes between troops and pro-democracy demonstrators.

Acting Prime Minister Meechai Ruchapan lifted the state of emergency. The move came a day after Parliament began approving constitutional reforms to reduce the power of the military, which long dominated the country's politics but now is widely despised. The amendments would reduce the power of the military-appointed Senate and require that the Prime Minister should be a member of Parliament.

The reforms, which are sup-

ported by King Bhumibol Adulyadej, were passed with the backing of the Opposition and governing parties. More than 100 lawmakers were absent during the votes, perhaps because they feared an unpleasant reaction from demonstrators demanding the prosecution of officers who ordered troops to shoot them.

Kabul-Pak links

Afghanistan and Pakistan are apparently drawing closer to each other. The Pak Premier visited Kabul soon after the new regime took over in Afghanistan, and on May 27 the acting Afghan President Prof Sibghatullah Mojadidi paid a two-day visit to Islamabad. During a joint press conference there on May 27 he said the decision to grant amnesty to people belonging to the previous Kabul regime should include the former President, Dr Najibullah, but the final verdict lay with the leaders of the "Shoora" (General Council). The view of Prof Mojadidi on granting of amnesty to Dr Najibullah, who is currently at a UN office in Kabul, was endorsed by Mr Sharif.

Asked about the promotion of the Uzbek commander, Rashid Dostum, to the rank of a General in the Afghan army, which was earlier opposed by the Pakhtun leader, Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the interim President said Gen Dostum was one of the main personalities responsible for the downfall of the Najibullah regime.

Pak Gains: As a result of developments in Kabul, Pakistan is very close to realising its much-publicised military doctrine of "strategic depth" which means better preparedness in case of a war with India. In this context, certain events call for notice. There is the request made by the Afghan Defence Minister, Mr Ahmad Shah Masood, to the Pakistan army to restructure the ethnically divided Afghan militia into a federal army. Moreover, the Afghan interim government has invited Pakistani advisers to assist in the restoration of the civilian infrastructure in Kabul.

After dumping its protege, Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Islamabad has expediently joined hands with Mr Masood in calling for the elevation of Mr Burhanuddin Rabbani as President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan when Prof Mojadidi's term expires. Masood currently dominates the Kabul scene.

Fighting in Kabul Again: As was feared, fighting between rival groups of Mujahideen has broken out again in Kabul. Thus the capital gets only short spells of peace. The conflicting parties are Muslim fundamentalist rebels and the militia they despise. A meeting between the rebels' leader and the Government would be futile.

Machine gun fire and the blast of rockets frequently shake the southern edge of Kabul. Both groups fought the Soviet installed regime in Kabul but their differences have intensified since the fall of President Najibullah. Mr Hekmatyar wants Afghanistan to become a stricter Islamic State than that envisioned by the interim Government that includes Mr Masood.

Mr Hekmatyar has refused to join the Government, insisting that the militia headed by Abdul Rashid Dostum be pulled out of Kabul. So far, Mr Masood and the interim Government have refused to give in to Mr Hekmatyar's demands, saying Dostum's fighters were instrumental in bringing down the Najibullah Government.

Each side accused the other of breaking the peace that followed a truce between Mr Hekmatyar and Mr Masood. Mr Hekmatyar's refusal to join the Government has weakened the new government. But Dostum's militia is considered crucial to the interim Government's survival.

Greater role for NAM

THE two-day Non-aligned Movement (NAM) Foreign Ministers' meeting, which ended at Bali (Indonesia) on May 16, noted with concern the emerging tendencies towards unipolar world politics and agreed that the movement had a

greater role to play in resolving global problems. The Coordinating Bureau of NAM said a unipolar world (following the collapse of the Soviet Union) could limit the prospects of resolving today's global problems as the needs and interests of developing countries were not taken into account.

The meeting, attended by NAM members from 71 countries, 12 observers and 25 guests, said the philosophy of the movement was as relevant as ever and its underlying tenets remained unchanged.

The aspirations of the NAM countries for true equality, genuine independence and unfettered development remained substantially unfulfilled and it was necessary for the movement to embark on a dynamic and timely adaptation to the new international realities as well as the articulation and implementation of appropriate strategies. The movement would be able to take full advantage of the enhanced opportunities to meet new challenges by forging greater unity and solidarity.

The Ministers said the current course of international relations necessitated revitalisation and restructuring of the UN as the centrepiece of a dynamic multilateral process, both in maintaining peace and security and in the promotion of international cooperation for development.

Rejecting suggestions that Yugoslavia had ceased to exist, the Foreign Ministers hoped that Yugoslavia will succeed in resolving its problems as soon as possible and continue to play an active and important role in international relations, particularly in the Non-aligned Movement.

The meeting welcomed the reactivation of the membership of Cambodia in the movement. Guatemala and Papua New Guinea were admitted as full members of the movement, raising NAM's membership to 105. Also admitted was the People's Republic of China with observer status.

THE EXAMINER'S GUESS QUESTIONS

Q. Who was selected as Miss Universe, 1992 at the Miss Universe 1992 beauty pageant held at Bangkok, Thailand?

Ans. Miss Namibia, Ms Michelle McLean. India's Ms Madhushri Sapre finished second runner-up behind Miss Columbia, Ms Paola Turbay.

Q. What was India's trade deficit in 1991-92?

Ans. US \$ 1.61 billion as against \$ 5.93 billion in 1990-91. In terms of rupees the trade deficit was Rs 3,969 crore as against Rs 10,643 crore in 1990-91. The severe import curbs that had been brought into force in the face of the extraordinary foreign exchange crisis were largely responsible for the steep decline in the trade deficit during 1991-92.

Q. What amount of defence exports were recorded by India in 1991-92?

Ans. Rs 101.26 crore as compared to 78.94 crore in 1990-91.

Q. What number of foreign tourists visited India in 1991-92?

Ans. 1,781,892. This was 10.4 per cent increase over previous year.

Q. Which day was observed by the government as 'Anti-terrorism' day?

Ans. May 21, the first death anniversary of the former Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Q. On which day is World Telecommunication Day celebrated?

Ans. May 17.

Q. In the month of May, 1992 President R. Venkataraman visited which country?

Ans. China. This was first ever trip by the Indian head of State to China.

Q. Name the President of China?

Ans. Yang Shangkun.

Q. Name the Nepalese Sherpa who has earned the unique distinction of having scaled Mount Everest for the seventh time without artificial oxygen?

Ans. Mr Ang Rita Sherpa.

Q. What annual growth rate has been envisaged in the 8th Five-year plan?

Ans. 5.6 per cent with an aggregate investment of Rs 7,98,000 crore including a public sector outlay of Rs 4,34,000 crore.

Q. How many elected members of Parliament and State assemblies will constitute the electoral college for the election of the ninth President of India?

Ans. A total of 4,748 elected members of Parliament and State assemblies will constitute the electoral college (or voters) for the election of the ninth President of the Republic to be held on July 13. Of this, 543 members belong to the Lok Sabha, 233 to the Rajya Sabha and 3,972 to the State assemblies. The members of assemblies in Union Territories are not entitled to participate in the election of the President.

But the value of each vote for the election of the President is not the same. It varies from State to State, according to the total population of the State and the number of elected MPs and MLAs as per the formula laid down in the Constitution. The voting will be on the basis of proportional representation by means of a secret ballot. Under the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution, the population figures of the 1971 census would form the basis for this pur-

pose.

While under the 76th Amendment to the Constitution, the members of State assemblies in the newly carved out Delhi and Pondicherry will form part of the electoral college, Delhi will remain unrepresented, mainly because the elections to the Delhi assembly are yet to be held. The participation of MLA from Pondicherry too is uncertain because the latest amendment to the Constitution is yet to be ratified by the required number of State assemblies.

Q. Who headed the committee to inquire into the stock scam or the biggest scandal in India's financial sector?

Ans. Deputy Governor of RBI, Mr R. Janakiraman.

Q. How many countries are members of International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

Ans. 165. The Russian Federation recently became the 165th member.

Q. Where was the Earth Summit held?

Ans. Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

Q. Who is the Secretary General of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)?

Ans. Maurice Strong.

Q. What does Maastricht treaty pertain to?

Ans. Maastricht treaty was formalised to pave way for the integration of Europe as one economic block. The treaty has run into rough weather because the people of Denmark have rejected it. The treaty required ratification by all member countries.

Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

ASLV Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle

CODESA Convention for a Democratic South Africa

IRBM Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile

PPF Planet Protection Fund

SROSS Stretched Rohini Satellite Series

UNCED United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

AWARDS

Bharatiya Jnanpith Award, 1991

THE 27th annual Bharatiya Jnanpith Award, 1991 for contribution to Indian literature has been awarded to Mr Subhash Mukhopadhyaya, a Bengali writer

A poet and author, he has been lauded for his outstanding creative writing in Bengali between 1971 and 1985. He is the fourth Bengali writer to get the award. The award carries Rs 2 lakh in cash, a citation plaque and a bronze replica of Goddess Vagdevi.

Indira Gandhi prize for peace and disarmament

RAJIV Gandhi has been awarded the Indira Gandhi prize for peace and disarmament, *posthumously*, for his "outstanding and innovative contribution to the cause of nuclear disarmament, global peace and economic development".

First G.D. Birla award for Scientific Research, 1991

THE first G.D. Birla award for Scientific Research, 1991, has been given to Prof Asis Datta, Professor of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, School of Life Science, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

The award has been instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation.

Kalidas Samman, 1991-92

RENOWNED sculptor Somnath Hore of West Bengal and veteran theatrist, artist and script-writer, Mrs Vijaya Mehta have been awarded the prestigious Kalidas Samman for 1991-92.

The award has been sponsored by the Madhya Pradesh Government and carries Rs one lakh in cash and a plaque.

Arjuna awards, 1990

THIRTEEN outstanding sports persons have been selected for the 1990 Arjuna awards. These are Deena Ram (*Shotput*), Anupama Gokhale (*Chess*), Jasbir Singh (*Hockey*), Leander Paes (*Tennis*), Hardeep Singh (*Kabaddi*), Bula Chaudhry (*Swimming*), Meherwan Daruwalla (*Squash*), Manmeet Singh (*Table Tennis*), Dalel Singh (*Volleyball*), K. Chandra (*Weightlifting*), Kunjuran Devi (*Weightlifting*), Ombir Singh (*Wrestling*) and Pushpendra Garg (*Yachting*).

The award carries a cash prize of Rs 20,000, a bronze statuette and a scroll of honour.

Dronacharya awards, 1990

THREE Coaches—Ramakant Achrekar (*Cricket*), A. Ramana Rao (*Volleyball*) and Syed Naemuddin (*Football*)—have been chosen for the Dronacharya awards, 1990.

The award is given to Coaches for outstanding work on a constant basis in last three consecutive years. It carries a cash prize of Rs 40,000 each.

DAYS

World No-Tobacco Day

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) had declared May 31 as "No Tobacco Day" to highlight the injurious effects of tobacco.

The day provided an opportunity to initiate research on specific themes and subsequently disseminate information on the harmful use

of tobacco.

Tobacco use is currently estimated to account for three million deaths per year worldwide.

The "World No-Tobacco Day" was dedicated to the right of workers to exercise their skills in the cleanest possible atmosphere.

DEFENCE

'Agni' test successful for second time

INDIA reaffirmed her perfection in the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile Technology, when the surface-to-surface missile, *Agni*, was successfully test-fired for the second time from the Interim Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur-on-Sea on May 29, 1992.

It also put at rest all speculation that India was putting off the test under pressure from the United States. The second test-firing of *Agni* was earlier postponed five times. *Agni* was first test flown successfully on May 22, 1989.

This second experimental launch was mainly aimed at proving the technology of advanced manoeuvres during the re-entry phase of the flight to achieve high accuracy in guiding the payload to a designated target at long range. Advanced materials and guidance schemes of indigenous design and manufacture had been used in the test vehicle.

The accurate firing of the long range missile gives an added relevance to India because it would provide it a non-nuclear option.

The second *Agni* test vehicle, like the first, used a solid propellant in the first stage and a liquid propellant in the second. The missile is about 21 metres in length, has a take-off weight of 16 tonnes and a payload capacity of one tonne. The range of *Agni* is 2,500 km.

EXPEDITIONS

Indian expedition to Everest

THE Indian flag once again fluttered atop the world's highest peak after eight years as three members of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police summited the 8848 metre Mount Everest on May 10, 1992. Sunil Sharma, 29, Kanhaiya Lal, 42 and Prem Singh, 27 of ITBP reached the top at 4 p.m. after a gruelling eleven-and-a-half hour, climb from the 7990 metre camp four at South Col.

The ITBP trio raised the Indian tricolour and the flags of the ITBP and Indian Mountaineering Foundation besides performing a *pooja* and sprinkling the sacred waters of the Ganga.

The last successful Indian expedition was in 1984 which also put atop the first Indian woman, Bachendri Pal. This is the third Indian success on Everest.

Everest was first climbed by Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay in 1953.

On May 12, 1992 three more members of the Indian team scaled the 8,848-metre Mt Everest.

The successful Indians were Mr Dipak Lokjung, Havildar; Ms Santosh Yadav, inspector; and Mr Mohan Singh, sub-inspector, along with two Nepali helpers—Sange Muduk and Wangchuk Sherpa.

PERSONS

Mukhopadhyaya, Subhash

SUBHASH Mukhopadhyaya, an eminent Bengali writer, is the winner of the 1991 Bharatiya Jnanpith award.

73-year-old Mr Mukhopadhyaya is the author of 46 works: 17 volumes of poetry, four novels, three travelogues, seven works of literature for children, 11 translations and four miscellaneous ones. His first collection of poems was published in 1940.

In 1962 he received Sahitya Akademi award for *Jato Durei Jai*, a collection of poems. His first novel *Hungrus* was published in 1973. His other major works were: *Kal Madhumas* (1969), *Ei Bhai* (1971) and *Challe*

Gachhe Bone (1972).

One of his recent collections, *Ja Re Kagazer Nauka* (1989) speaks of his continued creativity and vision.

SPACE RESEARCH

ASLV blasts off into space

INDIA accomplished another landmark in space technology with the successful launch of its Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV), on May 20, 1992 which placed a SROSS satellite in a 450 km orbit.

The third successful developmental flight of ASLV came after two failures of two rockets in the same series. The first launch on March 24, 1987, was abortive as the first stage motor failed to ignite. The second flight on July 13, 1988, failed 150 seconds after launch following failure of control systems.

The ASLV-D3 had several modifications based on the experience of the first two unsuccessful flights. Fins were introduced on the core first stage for greater stability and the digital autopilot was redesigned for better control.

The ASLV was designed and built at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram, India's lead centre for launch vehicles.

The successful launch of the five-stage ASLV has demonstrated proper functioning of several advanced technologies needed for the PSLV and the GSLV programmes.

ASLV is designed to augment indigenous satellite launch capability and put 150-kg class satellites into low-earth orbits. It is parallel to the Stout class rockets launched by the United States.

The next step would be operational launch vehicles such as the polar satellite launch vehicle which can place into space 1,000 kg satellites such as the Indian remote sensing satellite and 2,500 kg satellites such as those of the indigenous INSAT-II series.

SROSS Satellite: The indigenous upper atmosphere and space research programmes got a boost with the successful deploy-

ment of the 106-kg SROSS (Stretched Rohini Series) satellite by the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV).

The satellite, the heaviest to be launched from Indian soil, has two important payloads—a retarding potential analyser built at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi, to study the ionosphere and a Gamma Ray Burst (GRB) detector, designed and fabricated at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Bangalore, to analyse solar activity in the atmosphere.

The octagonal SROSS-C is prism-shaped. It has four sets of solar panels, each consisting of two panels to generate nearly 40 watts of electricity to power the systems on board.

The NPL-built payload, retarding potential analyser, will study the ionosphere, the region of earth's upper atmosphere in which free electrons rise from ionisation (formation of an electrically charged atom or group of atoms), mainly as a result of ultraviolet radiations and X-rays from the sun.

The gamma ray burst analyser will study these rays, which are electromagnetic radiation with wavelength shorter than X-rays.

The satellite will complete an orbit around the earth in 92 minutes and is tracked by earth stations on Car Nicobar islands, Thiruvananthapuram, Hassan near Bangalore and in Mauritius.

Endeavour Space Shuttle Mission

SHUTTLE *Endeavour* landed in the California desert with seven astronauts on May 17, 1992 ending a triumphant spacewalking mission in which three men caught a massive satellite by hand.

Endeavour circled earth 141 times and lodged 5,946,894 km during its maiden voyage.

\$2 billion space shuttle, the replacement for the destroyed Challenger, is the first shuttle to be equipped with a drag chute. The chute is intended to reduce the distance the shuttle rolls by 300 to 600 metres, letting the orbiter land on

shorter runway.

A \$ 370m space rescue mission: In a last-ditch effort three space shuttle astronauts reached up with hands and caught a 4-tonne, slowly spinning, satellite in a risky effort to save the craft. It was the first three-man spacewalk ever. Success had eluded *Endeavour's* seven-member crew on two previous days.

It was a difficult job of attaching a 4.5 metre-long handle to the bottom of the Intelsat-6 satellite, so it could be grasped by the shuttle crane and lowered on to a rocket motor in the shuttle's cargo bay.

The three astronauts surrounded the satellite like three legs of a tripod. The operation required extraordinary delicacy. Any jarring motion could have caused the fuel inside the satellite to start it rocking.

The 122-nation consortium paid NASA \$ 93 million for the rescue, and stood to lose it all—plus \$ 1 billion in potential revenue from the satellite—if the rescue failed.

The spacewalking plan had not been rehearsed by the crew, but NASA insisted it was safe. Engineers for the space agency and Intelsat spent two days scrutinizing blueprints to make sure there were no sharp edges on the satellite that could puncture a space suit. A small rip or tear in the vacuum of space could kill a spacewalker.

In *Endeavour's* cargo bay was a 10 419 kg rocket motor to be used to boost the satellite to its proper orbit. Once the motor was latched onto the satellite, the combination was released and Intelsat controllers fired the motor to boost the satellite to its proper orbit at 36,000 km.

Neither the United States nor Russia has ever had three people outside a ship in space at one time. More than two complicates communications and tethering.

Astronauts have captured satellites by hand all three times they have tried—twice in 1984 and once in 1985. Two of those craft were brought back to earth. The other was rewired and boosted to high altitude.

SUMMIT

Earth Summit

AMIDST high expectations, the Earth Summit opened at Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, with a call by the UN Secretary-General, Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, for the introduction of the "Polluter Pays Principle" to prevent global environmental degradation.

Formally known as United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the 12-day conference saw delegates from some 170 countries discuss how to rescue the earth from environmental degradation.

The main documents produced at the summit were:

The Rio Declaration: An outline of principles for clean development. Originally to be called the Earth Charter, it was renamed and made legally non-binding.

Agenda 21 A 900-page, non-binding programme of action for environmentally safe growth. It addresses controversial issues such as toxic waste, the transfer of clean technologies, and what money will be loaned or donated to Third World countries to foster benign development.

Climate Control Convention: An agreement on lowering carbon dioxide emissions believed to cause global warming. Intended as the summit's showpiece, it was diluted by pressure from the Bush administration and does not include targets or deadlines.

Statement on Forests: A watered-down, non-binding version of a treaty to protect the world's forests. Malaysia led opposition that blocked inclusion of a ban on the sale of tropical hardwoods.

Biodiversity. An agreement to preserve the world's plants, animals and resources. President Bush said he would not sign it, calling the draft fundamentally flawed because it gives third world nations too much say on funding.

UN

Yugoslav republics admitted to UN **T**HE General Assembly of UN has admitted the former Yugoslav

republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia to the United Nations, raising its membership to 178.

Although the Yugoslav army has fiercely fought Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, after those republics declared independence, it did not oppose their admission to the United Nations.

MISCELLANY

First Indian atmospheric research radar installed

THE Indian MST—Mesosphere, Stratosphere and Troposphere—radar, being installed at Gadanki, a small hamlet, 30 km from Tirupati, is projected to become a versatile ground tool for atmospheric research in the years to come.

This is the world's second largest such radar (the first being in Peru) and the first of its kind in India.

During the past few years, the international scientific community had identified middle atmospheric studies as an important branch of geophysics. It is of great interest for scientists to carefully investigate the motions of the middle atmosphere on all temporal and spatial scales. MST corresponds to three height regions of atmosphere, 50-85 km, 17-50 km and 0-17 km, respectively. Above these is the popular ionosphere.

In normal radars, the target may be air planes. For a MST radar the target is the irregularities in the radio refractive index of the atmosphere. The strength of the echo is very weak, since reflectivity of the clear atmosphere is extremely small. This dictates the use of high transmitter power and antenna array with large physical aperture.

NAM gets two new members

GUATEMALA and Papua New Guinea have been included as full-fledged members of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) while Cambodia has resumed membership of the movement after an absence of 13 years.

SPORTS

GAMES

Barcelona Olympics : Flame begins journey

The Olympic flame, symbolising peace and life, was lit by the sun during a ceremony at the ruins of ancient Olympia on June 5, 1992 and began its trip to Barcelona for the summer games starting on July 25, 1992

At an altar to the ancient Greek god Zeus, a high priestess, played by an actress and 20 Acolytes in white robes lit the Olympic flame with the sun's rays beamed from a concave mirror

"God of sun and light, send your rays to light the holy flame, let the friendly city of Barcelona reflect the light of peace to the world", the high priestess intoned to the gods Zeus and Apollo

Thousands of spectators watched the ceremony despite sizzling heat in this western valley of the Peloponnese peninsula where the Olympic Games began in 776 BC

The priestess carried the torch to the original Olympic Stadium and handed it over to a Greek athlete, the first of 367 runners who will take it to the Barcelona

ARCHERY

Beijing International Invitation Tournament

Limba Ram of India captured the gold in the Beijing International Invitation Archery Tournament displaying determination in the face of several sudden-death situations

In the finals, he scored 97 out of 120 possible points to humble China's Fu Shengjun who scored 84 that fetched him the silver. Indonesia's Setijawan Hondra took the bronze

Limba's performance was commendable for the confidence and steadiness displayed despite the

touch and go situations and wind conditions

However, Indian women bowed out meekly in the quarter-final and pre-quarter-final stages of the individual events

The gold was bagged by Chinese woman Ma Xiangjun with 102 of 120 possible points while Indonesian Pandiangan Puralama took the silver and North Korean Kim Jong Hwa the bronze

BADMINTON

Thomas Cup

Hosts Malaysia scored a memorable 3-1 victory over Indonesia to win the Thomas Cup, symbol of world badminton supremacy

This was Malaysia's first Thomas Cup victory in 25 years

Earlier, Malaysia cracked open 'The Great Wall of China', to score a stunning 3-2 win over defending champions China in the semifinals

Uber Cup
Champion China came back from the brink of defeat to win the Uber Cup women's badminton team title for the fifth successive time. They beat South Korea 3-2

CRICKET

England-Pakistan one-day series

First Match England's expatriate South African Robin Smith and Allan Lamb plundered nearly 150 runs between them as England compiled an impressive 278 for six from their 55 overs in the first one-day cricket international against Pakistan at Lord's

Then the England seamers took a tight grip on the match, dismissing Pakistan for 199 in the final over thus defeating the world champions by 79 runs

Second Match: Vice-captain of England Alec Stewart, scored his maiden one-day international century to help England register their

second straight win over Pakistan by 39 runs in the match played at Oval

FOOTBALL

European Cup

Barcelona finally stepped out of the shadow cast by Real Madrid, when they won the European Cup after a memorable final against Sampdoria of Italy, played at London

A stunning goal from their outstanding Dutch defender Ronald Koeman settled the outcome just when it looked as if the match would go to a penalty shoot-out

Asia Cup

Favourites Iran emerged the winners to lift the Charminar Challenge Trophy in the Asia Cup (group three) qualifying football tournament played at the Salt Lake Stadium, Calcutta. This win, while ensuring full points, also confirmed their place in the final round of main event, scheduled for October at Hiroshima

HOCKEY

Spain win the four-nation tournament

India, who needed a win, failed to score against Spain in the final match of the four-nation tournament, held at Madrid, allowing the host nation to win the four-nation tournament on goal difference

Both teams finished with five points from three games, but Spain's eight tournament goals in two previous matches proved decisive in the end.

BMW Trophy

Pakistan beat the Netherlands 2-1 in an exciting match to lift the BMW trophy, their first success in Europe in last 20 years

Pakistan only needed a draw to win but went out for a win and pulled it off in a display of great

speed and superb ball skills.

TENNIS

French Open Championships

Jim Courier rolled to his second straight French Open title with a 7-5, 6-2, 6-1, win over the underdog, Peter Korda of Czechoslovakia who undid himself with repeated crucial errors.

Courier who lost only one set in his seven matches proved emphatically his No. 1 world ranking. Winner of the Australian Open in January, the 21-year-old American has now won three Grand Slam titles and is half way to a sweep of the four events in 1992.

Monica Seles outfought Steffi Graf, 6-2, 3-6, 10-8 in an epic final thus becoming the first woman in 55 years to win three straight French Open titles.

Seles is the first woman to capture three consecutive French Opens since Germany's Hilde Sterling ac-

complished the feat from 1935 to 1937.

Having won the Australian Open in January she is half way to Grand Slam title of 1992.

Men's World Team Cup

Sergi Bruguera of Spain defeated Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia, 6-4, 6-2, to clinch for Spain the 1.37 million-dollar men's tennis World Team Cup title.

Bruguera gave Spain an unsailable 2-0 lead over Czechoslovakia after team-mate Emilio Sanchez downed Peter Korda 3-6, 6-2, 7-6.

Eight countries had participated in the tournament

Italian Open Championships

World number one men's tennis player, Jim Courier of the United States, won the 14 million dollar Italian Open, defeating Spain's Carlos Costa.

Argentine Gabriela Sabatini beat

world No. 1 Monica Seles in the women's singles final for the second successive year.

German Open Championships

Top-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden overcame the loss of the first set and two rain interruptions to win the German Open tennis tournament with a 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 victory over Michael Stich of Germany.

WRESTLING

National Championship

The Services claimed a double after a lapse of 17 years when they annexed the free-style and the Greco-Roman titles in the National wrestling championship held at Bhillwara.

Services, who earned 78 points in the free-style team title, pushed holder Delhi (72 points) to the second spot.

Services snatched the Greco-Roman team title from Railways securing 90 points.

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Appointments Etc

Appointed; Elected Etc

Samboon Rahong He has been named Prime Minister of Thailand.

Marc Bazin The military-backed interim government has designated him to become new leader of Haiti.

Oscar Luigi Scalfaro He has been elected as the ninth President of Italy.

Waldemar Pawlak He has been nominated by President Lech Walesa as Poland's fourth post-Communist Prime Minister. He is leader of the Polish Peasants Party.

Sitiveni Rabuka He has been sworn in as Prime Minister of Fiji. He heads the first elected government since 1987.

Rashid Solh He is the new Prime Minister of Lebanon.

Rajinder K. Rai He has been appointed as India's Ambassador to Sudan.

Gurdip S. Bedi He has been appointed as India's Ambassador to Brazil.

R.M. Abhyankar He has been appointed as India's Ambassador to Syria.

M.K. Khusha He is India's new Ambassador to Argentina.

Kaulresh Sharma He is India's Ambassador to Kazakhstan.

Sudhur Devare He is India's Ambassador to Ukraine.

S.N. Puri He has been appointed India's Ambassador to Belarus.

L.T. Pudante He has been ap-

pointed India's Ambassador to Hungary.

Bupat Oza He is new Ambassador of India to South Korea.

D.C. Mennerff He is new Ambassador of India to Czechoslovakia.

Pushkar Jolani He is new Indian Ambassador in Bhutan.

K.K.S. Rana He is new Indian Ambassador to Germany.

S.L. Malil He is new Indian Ambassador to Vietnam.

S. Ramamurthy He has been appointed Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

Resigned

Suchinda Kraprayoon Prime Minister of Thailand.

Jan Olszewski Prime Minister of Poland. His Government was dismissed by the Parliament.

Distinguished Visitors

Sir Veerasamy Rengadoo President of Mauritius.

Begum Khaleda Zia Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

Ali Akbar Velayati Foreign Minister of Iran.

Died

Murlidhar Dattatreya Deoras Veteran Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Leader. He was 75.

Marlene Dietrich One of the legends at Hollywood. She was 90.

M.J. Pherwani Former Chairman of National Housing Bank (NHBB). He was 58.

ghanistan.

24—A senior Indian diplomat in Pakistan, Mr Rajesh Mittal, is forcibly abducted by Pakistan intelligence personnel and released after torturing him with third degree methods, six hours later.

26—The 6th round of talks, between foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan, are called off.

28—The Indo-US task ships begin a 24-hour night and day joint Naval exercise off the Western Coast at Cochin.

31—The UN Security Council imposes sanctions against Serb-led Yugoslavia in a bid to halt fighting that has tore apart the Balkan federation. The Serb forces accept ceasefire in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo.

JUNE

3—The people of Denmark reject the Maastricht treaty thus derailing the process of European integration.

4—Big bull operator, Mr Harshad Mehta, who is allegedly involved in the multi-crore securities scam is arrested by CBI.

5—In a surprise development, France and Germany, two of the strongest allies of the U.S. in Europe, agree to sign the convention on biodiversity, effectively isolating US on the issue.

6—An ordinance entitled "The Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Ordinance, 1992" is promulgated to establish a special court for expeditions trial of securities scam culprits and to appoint a custodian for attaching their assets.

7—Japan joins Britain and the eleven other members of the European Community in breaking with USA to sign a treaty on bio-diversity, one of the cornerstones of the UN Earth Summit.

8—Violence mars by-elections to two Lok Sabha and 19 assembly seats.

9—Moldova government steps down.

10—India signs the Climate Change Convention which seeks to limit carbon and other gaseous emissions.

EVENTS

MAY

11—USA blacklists Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Russian space agency, Glavkosmos, for two years, as punitive action for a deal involving transfer of Russian rocket engine technology.

14—The Indian Government bans the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

17—The President, Mr R. Venkataraman leaves for Beijing, China, on a six-day State visit.

18—Scores of anti-government protesters are feared dead as troops open fire at a rally in Bangkok, Thailand.

—India and Slovenia establish diplomatic ties.

20—India attains another landmark in space technology by successfully launching Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) and placing a SROSS satellite in a 450 km high orbit.

21—A 31-member mediation committee announces a formal end to the battle for Kabul, Af-

Quantitative Aptitude

The questions given hereunder were set in a Bank Probationary Officers examination

We are grateful to Shri Ajay Datta of Calcutta for sending these questions to us

Q. 1-5. In each of the following number series, a wrong number is given. Find out that number.

1 824 408 396 96 44 18 5
(a) 408 (b) 396 (c) 96 (d) 44

(c) 18
2 5041 721 121 25 8 3 2
(a) 721 (b) 121 (c) 25 (d) 8

(c) 3
3 3 4 10 32 136 685 4116
(a) 4 (b) 10 (c) 32 (d) 136

(c) 685
4 5 7 13 25 45 87 117
(a) 7 (b) 13 (c) 25 (d) 45

(c) 87
5 4 8 12 30 90 315 1260
(a) 8 (b) 12 (c) 30 (d) 90

(c) 315

6 Fourteen men can complete a work in 12 days. Four days after they started the work two more men joined them. How many days will they take to complete the remaining work?

(a) 9 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 7

(c) None of these

7 The difference between a two digit number and the number obtained by interchanging the positions of its digits is 18. What is the difference between the two digits of that number?

(a) 2 (b) 9 (c) 7

(d) Data inadequate (e) None of these

8 Three fifth of one tenth of a number is 18. What is the number?

(a) 140 (b) 120 (c) 160 (d) 90

(c) None of these

9 Shyamal bought a radio with certain percentage of discount on the original price. He earned a profit of 15% by selling it at Rs 850. If he had sold it at Rs 1000, what would have been the profit percentage on the original price?

(a) 15 (b) 20 (c) 10

(d) Cannot be determined (e) None of these

10 Mohan's marks in Geography were 40 per cent of the total marks he got in Science and History. If he got 20 marks more in Science than in History, what were his marks in Geography?

(a) 60 (b) 40 (c) 50

(d) Data inadequate (e) None of these

11 Prabhat is as much heavier than Jatin as he is lighter than Umesh. If the total weight of Umesh and Jatin is 140 kgs, what is the weight of Prabhat?

(a) 80 kgs (b) 60 kgs (c) 75 kgs

(d) Cannot be determined (e) None of these

12 If the price of one dozen of mangoes is Rs 45.35, what will be the approximate value of 146 mangoes?

(a) Rs 550 (b) Rs 800 (c) Rs 460 (d) Rs 750
(e) Rs 650

13 The simple interest on a sum of money after certain number of years will be 80 per cent of the principal. If the interest was Rs 400 at the end of the second year, what would be the rate of the interest per cent per annum?

(a) 4 (b) 6 (c) 8
(d) Data inadequate (e) None of these

14 By how much is $\frac{4}{5}$ th of 70 greater than $\frac{3}{8}$ th of 96?

(a) 16 (b) 18 (c) 20 (d) 8

(e) None of these

15 Which of the following has the fractions in descending order?

(a) $\frac{7}{9}$ $\frac{9}{11}$ (b) $\frac{9}{11}$ $\frac{7}{9}$ (c) $\frac{11}{7}$ $\frac{9}{11}$

(d) $\frac{9}{11}$ $\frac{7}{9}$ (e) None of these

16 A train running at a speed of 84 km per hour crosses a man running at a speed of 6 km per hour in the opposite direction in 4 seconds. What is the length of the train in metres?

(a) 75 (b) 180 (c) 200 (d) 150

(e) None of these

17 If the price of gold is Rs 2874 per 10 gms, what will be the approximate value of 14.67 gms?

(a) Rs 4,300 (b) Rs 3,800 (c) Rs 5,300

(d) Rs 5,600 (e) Rs 3,300

18 A sum of money is to be divided between A, B and C in the proportion of 2 : 3 : 5. If C's share is 50% of the sum, what is B's share in it?

(a) Rs 1,000 (b) Rs 1,500 (c) Rs 1,800

(d) Data inadequate (e) None of these

19 The price of five chairs is equal to the price of two tables. If the price of a table is Rs 820 more than that of a chair, what will be the approximate price of a chair?

(a) Rs 240 (b) Rs 420 (c) Rs 360 (d) Rs 180

(e) Rs 550

20 Pramod bought 30 kg of rice at the rate of Rs 8.50 per kg and 20 kg at the rate of Rs 9.00 per kg. He mixed the two. At approximately what price per kg should he sell the mixture to make a 20% profit?

(a) Rs 9.50 (b) Rs 8.50 (c) Rs 10.50 (d) Rs 12.00

(e) Rs 12.50

21 If 35% of a number is 12 less than 50% of that number, what is the number?

(a) 28 (b) 40 (c) 60 (d) 80

(e) None of these

22 One year ago the ratio of Tarun and Gopal's age was 4 : 5. One year hence the ratio of their ages will be

5 : 6. What is the present age of Gopal in years?

(a) 9 (b) 10 (c) 12

(d) Cannot be determined (e) None of these

23 When the price of a machine was decreased by 20 per cent, the number of machines sold was increased by 40 per cent. What was the effect on the sales?

(a) 20% increase (b) 10% increase

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

- (c) 8% increase (d) 15% increase
(e) None of these

24. Alok started a business investing Rs 75,000. After three months Chandan joined him with a capital of Rs 60,000. If at the end of the year the total profit is Rs 16,000, what will be Chandan's share in it?

- (a) Rs 6,000 (b) Rs 10,000 (c) Rs 8,000
(d) Rs 4,500 (e) None of these

25. The average age of 24 students in a class is 14. If the teacher's age is included the average increases by one. What is the teacher's age in years?

- (a) 38 (b) 39 (c) 40 (d) 29 (e) None of these

Q. 26-30. Study the following table carefully and answer the questions given below it:

Number of six different cars produced and exported by a company over the years

(Number of cars in thousands)

Year	Type of Car		A		B		C		D		E		F	
	Produced	Exported	Produced	Exported	Produced	Exported	Produced	Exported	Produced	Exported	Produced	Exported	Produced	Exported
1983	20	12	60	42	80	62	39	22	42	24	68	32		
1984	40	21	57	44	85	58	42	18	37	18	72	53		
1985	37	18	38	19	79	49	44	20	58	24	79	49		
1986	44	28	46	24	76	34	46	19	72	34	45	29		
1987	29	11	72	30	92	51	34	12	65	31	62	25		
1988	39	16	41	18	78	42	38	14	64	28	58	32		
TOTAL	209	106	314	177	490	296	243	105	338	159	384	220		

26. In which of the following years was the ratio of export to production of C type car the highest?

- (a) 1983 (b) 1984 (c) 1985 (d) 1987
(e) None of these

27. The ratio of total number of cars exported to that produced during the given period is least in the case of which of the following types?

- (a) A (b) C (c) D (d) E
(e) None of these

28. In which of the following years the percentage of export of B type of cars was more than the production of that year?

- (a) 1983 (b) 1984 (c) 1985 (d) 1987
(e) None of these

29. What percentage of C type of cars exported in 1987 was more than these cars exported in 1986?

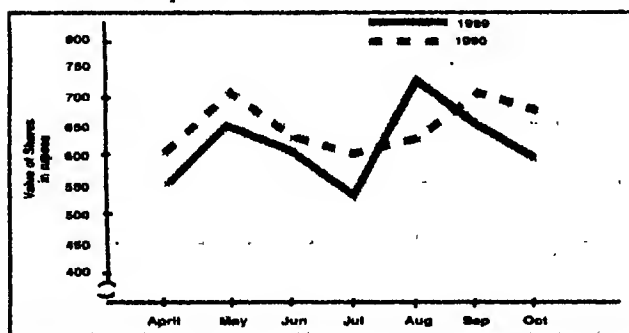
- (a) 100 (b) 150 (c) 25 (d) 50
(e) None of these

30. What was the average production percentage of A type of cars in 1984 to the total production of this type of cars in all the given years?

- (a) 20 (b) 10 (c) 40 (d) 15 (e) 25

Q. 31-35. Study the following graph carefully and answer the questions based on it.

Monthly statement of a company's ordinary shares from April to October in 1989 and 1990.



31. During which two-month period in 1989, the

share value is the same?

- (a) May-July (b) April-October (c) April-June
(d) May-August (e) May-September

32. What is the difference in the share values between July 1989 and May 1989?

- (a) 125 (b) 525 (c) 475 (d) 175
(e) None of these

33. What is the average value of shares between April and October in 1990?

- (a) 500 (b) 550 (c) 650 (d) 700
(e) 750

34. What is the percentage decrease on an average in value of shares in 1990 from September to October?

- (a) 40 (b) 8 (c) 4 (d) 20
(e) 10

35. What is the percentage increase on an average in the value of shares in 1989 from July to August?

- (a) 40 (b) 30 (c) 50 (d) 4 (e) 14

The following questions were set in the Railway Recruitment Board, Bhubaneswar examination held on 23.2.92.

We thank Shri Ashok Kumar Saboo, Baramalipur (Orissa) for sending these questions to us.

Q. 36-46. Out of the four suggested answers given below each question, which should replace the (?) question mark?

36. $7386 + 3333 - ? = 10010$

- (a) 609 (b) 619 (c) 719 (d) 709

37. $2185 + 901 + 1010 + 20005 = ?$

- (a) 23101 (b) 60965 (c) 33101 (d) 24101

38. $\frac{121}{0.121} = \frac{12.1}{?}$

- (a) 0.0121 (b) 0.00121 (c) 1.21 (d) 1210

39. $63\% \text{ of } 5 = ?$

- (a) 3.3 (b) 3.15 (c) 0.126 (d) 3.05

40. $\sqrt{\frac{?}{289}} = \frac{400}{425}$

- (a) 256 (b) 6800 (c) 272 (d) 225

41. $0.642 + 2.14 = ?$

- (a) 0.33 (b) 0.03 (c) 0.3 (d) 0.033

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

42. $2\frac{1}{2} + 3\frac{1}{3} + 4\frac{1}{4} = ?$

- (a) $\frac{32}{9}$ (b) $11\frac{1}{12}$ (c) $9\frac{1}{3}$ (d) $10\frac{1}{12}$

43. $22 \times 10235 = ?$

- (a) 225170 (b) 225270 (c) 1170422 (d) 225160

44. 3% of ? = 0.39

- (a) 0.117 (b) 13 (c) 1.17 (d) 39

45. $\frac{(44 + 11) \div 11}{3 \times 6 - 3} = ?$

- (a) $2\frac{14}{15}$ (b) $\frac{1}{3}$ (c) $\frac{5}{9}$ (d) $4\frac{8}{9}$

46. $\frac{(22)^2 \times 484}{44} = ?$

- (a) 5222 (b) 5324 (c) 4032 (d) 4945

47. Find the interest on Rs 1600 at $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ for 2 years and 9 months

- (a) Rs 169 (b) Rs 189 (c) Rs 198 (d) Rs 199

48. The highest common factor of 70 and 245 is

- (a) 35 (b) 45 (c) 55 (d) 65

49. The value of $\frac{1 \div \frac{1}{2} \text{ of } \frac{1}{2}}{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \text{ of } \frac{1}{2}} = ?$

- (a) $2\frac{2}{3}$ (b) $1\frac{1}{3}$ (c) $3\frac{2}{3}$ (d) $4\frac{4}{3}$

50. LCM of $2\frac{1}{3}$ and $3\frac{8}{3} = ?$

- (a) $2\frac{2}{3}$ (b) $3\frac{1}{2}$ (c) $1\frac{1}{2}$ (d) $4\frac{1}{4}$

51. $\frac{1}{6}$ of $6 + 6 \times 6 + 6 - 6 = ?$

- (a) 0 (b) $\frac{1}{6}$ (c) 1 (d) $\frac{1}{2}$

52. $25 - [6 + \{11 - (11 - 4)\}] = ?$

- (a) 5 (b) 10 (c) 15 (d) 20

53. Find the value of $0.55 \times 12 + 11 + 0.6 - 1$

- (a) 0 (b) 0.9 (c) 9.9 (d) 0.98

54. In a fort, there is provision of food for 150 men for 45 days. After 10 days 25 men left the fort. The remaining food will last for

- (a) 42 days (b) 54 days (c) 48 days (d) 50 days

55. A retailer buys a radio for Rs 225. His overhead expenses are Rs 15. He sells the radio for Rs 300. The profit percentage of the retailer is

- (a) 10% (b) 20% (c) 25% (d) 30%

56. Simple interest on a certain sum @ 8% per annum for 2 years and on Rs 350 differ by Rs 56. The sum is

- (a) Rs 700 (b) Rs 750 (c) Rs 775 (d) Rs 800

57. If the area of a hall is 1200 sq. metre, its length in metres shall be

- (a) 30 (b) 40 (c) 50 (d) Cannot be determined

58. A has $\frac{2}{3}$ as much money as B has and B $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as much money as C has. If C has Rs 360, how much money does A has?

- (a) Rs 180 (b) Rs 360 (c) Rs 540 (d) Rs 580

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1 (b) The series is $5 \times 2 + 8 = 18$, $18 \times 2 + 8 = 44$, $44 \times 2 + 8 = 96$, $96 \times 2 + 8 = 200$, $200 \times 2 + 8 = 408$, $408 \times 2 + 8 = 824$. So, 396 is wrong; it should be 200.

2 (d) The series is $2 \times 1 = 2$, $2 \times 2 - 1 = 3$, $3 \times 3 - 2 = 7$, $7 \times 4 - 3 = 25$, $25 \times 5 - 4 = 121$, $121 \times 6 - 5 = 721$, $721 \times 7 - 6 = 5041$. So, 8 is wrong, it should be 7.

3 (c) The series is $3 \times 1 + 1 = 4$, $4 \times 2 + 2 = 10$, $10 \times 3 + 3 = 33$, $33 \times 4 + 4 = 136$, $136 \times 5 + 5 = 685$. So, 32 is wrong. It should be 33.

4 (e) The series is $5 + (1 \times 2) = 7$, $7 + (2 \times 3) = 13$, $13 + (3 \times 4) = 25$, $25 + (4 \times 5) = 45$, $45 + (5 \times 6) = 75$, $75 + (6 \times 7) = 117$. So, 87 is wrong, it should be 75.

5 (a) $4 \times 15 = 6$, $6 \times 2 = 12$, $12 \times 25 = 30$, $30 \times 3 = 90$, $90 \times 35 = 315$, $315 \times 4 = 1260$. So, 8 is wrong. It should be 6.

6 (d) 14 men 12 days
1 man $14 \times 12 = 168$ days
(Remaining work = $1 - \frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{3}$)
16 men $\frac{2}{3}$ work = $\frac{2 \times 168}{3 \times 16} = 7$ days

7 (a) The number is 42
Difference between the two digits = $4 - 2 = 2$

8 (b) $18 \times 4 = 72$, $72 \times \frac{5}{3} = 120$

9 (d) 10 (d)

11 (d) 12 (a)

13 (d) 14 (c)

15 (e) 11 9 7
13' 11' 9

16 (e)

17 (a)

18 (d)

19 (e)

20 (c)

21 (d)

22 (e) Multiply 4 5 by 2 each, present age of Gopal is 11

23 (a)

24 (a) To arrive at profit ratio, Chandan's capital is 45000 for one year (60000 for 9 months)
Profit ratio is 75 45 or 5 3

25 (b) By average of 14, number of students = $24 \times 14 = 336$
By teacher's addition, the average comes to 15 and number of students plus teacher = 360
Teacher's age = $(360 - 336) \div 15 = 39$

26 (a) 27 (c) 28 (b) 29 (c) Ans. 10 7

30 (a) 31 (e) 32 (a) 33 (c)

34 (c) 35 (a) 36 (d) 37 (d)

38 (a) 39 (b) 40 (a) 41 (c)

42 (d) 43 (a) 44 (b) 45 (b)

46 (b) 47 (c) 48 (a) 49 (a)

50 (a) 51 (c) 52 (c) 53 (a)

54 (a)

55 (c)

$$\text{Profit\%} = \frac{(S.P. - C.P.) \times 100}{C.P.} \text{ or } \frac{(300 - 240) \times 100}{240} = 25$$

56 (a)

57 (d)

58 (b)

GENERAL AWARENESS

Q.1 to 36 were set in the Rajasthan State and Allied (Preliminary) examination and the remaining questions were set in the ACIO examination for Intelligence Bureau held recently.

We are grateful to Saroshri Aftab Ali Khan of Aligarh and Manav Kishore of Bhagalpur respectively for sending these questions to us.

1. Which of the following is the ancient oldest Vihar in India?

- (a) Nalanda (b) Takshila
(c) Valabhi (d) Bodhi Vihar

2. The Jawahar Lal Nehru Prize for International Understanding for the year 1990 has been given to which of the following:

- (a) Dr Sam Nujoma
(b) Helmut Kohl
(c) Nelson Mandela
(d) Yasser Arafat

3. Which country has resigned from the membership of NAM recently?

- (a) Italy
(b) Malaysia
(c) South Africa
(d) Argentina

4. South Alps ranges are found in which country?

- (a) North America
(b) South Africa
(c) Australia
(d) Canada

5. The present Secretary General of SAARC, Mr Hussain Ibrahim Zaki, belongs to which country?

- (a) Bangladesh
(b) Sri Lanka
(c) Maldives
(d) Bhutan

6. Summer Olympics will be held in the month of July in which city/country?

- (a) Atlanta
(b) Barcelona
(c) South Korea
(d) France

7. What does Operation Rhino relate to?

- (a) Army activity against extremists of Punjab
(b) Stopping of terrorist ac-

tivities by Army in Kashmir

(c) Army action against ULFA in Assam

(d) To stop activities of LTTE

8. Minimum needs programme is synonymous to which of the following terms:

- (a) To gather minimum requirements for livelihood
(b) Antodaya
(c) Freedom from hunger
(d) Providing food to poor

9. The name of the Kingdom in ancient India which used navy for the first time is:

- (a) Pallavas
(b) Pallas
(c) Cholas
(d) Gangayas

10. The preliminaries in the presidential elections of U.S.A. start from which of the following districts?

- (a) New York
(b) California
(c) New Hampshire
(d) Washington D.C.

11. The hydropower project Chokha is in collaboration with which country?

- (a) Bhutan
(b) Nepal
(c) Burma
(d) Bangladesh

12. Raman effect is found in which of the following?

- (a) Liquid
(b) Prism
(c) All transparent media
(d) Glass

13. Sambar lake produces how much percentage of the overall production of salt in India?

- (a) 7.8% (b) 15%
(c) 25% (d) 8.7%

14. Which Indian book has been translated into forty foreign languages and fifteen Indian languages?

- (a) Shakti
(b) Panchtantra
(c) Meghdoot
(d) Raghuvarsh

15. Haemoglobin is found in which part of the body?

- (a) blood

(b) Bone marrow

(c) Heart

(d) Spleen

16. Which vitamin helps in the process of blood clotting?

- (a) Vit E (b) Vit K
(c) Vit D (d) Vit C

17. Recently Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao visited Davos. What was held in Davos?

- (a) U.N. Security Council meeting
(b) NAM meeting
(c) Economic conference
(d) Environment conference

18. Bile is stored in which part of the body?

- (a) Pancreas
(b) Liver
(c) Gall Bladder
(d) Kidney

19. Which of the following acids doesn't contain oxygen?

- (a) Sulphuric acid
(b) Nitric acid
(c) Hydrochloric acid
(d) All

20. Liquefied petroleum gas is a mixture of:

- (a) Methane, Ethane and Hexane
(b) Butane, Heptane and Pentane
(c) Methane, Ethane and Acetylene
(d) Methane, Propane and Hexane

21. If the Pancreas stops functioning in the body then what would happen?

- (a) Level of sugar will increase
(b) Level of insulin and glycogen will decrease
(c) Insulin will increase
(d) Ammonia level will increase

22. India didn't sign the NPT because of the following reasons:

- (a) It is discriminatory
(b) It neglects the balance of power in South Asia
(c) It neglects peaceful use of energy
(d) None of these

23. The centre from where the

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

British Newspapers are published in:

- (a) Downing Street
- (b) Wall Street
- (c) Fleet Street
- (d) Palm Street

24. What is the name of the civilisation which evolved a proper system of writing?

- (a) Sumerians
- (b) Egyptians
- (c) Chinese
- (d) Indus Valley

25. U.S.A. entered in World War II in 1941 instead of 1939. Why?

- (a) Isolation Policy of U.S.A.
- (b) She wanted to favour allies
- (c) Attack on Pearl Harbour by Japan in 1941
- (d) U.S.A. wanted to show its supremacy

26. Paris is situated on the banks of which river?

- (a) Seine
- (b) Saint Lawrence
- (c) Rhine
- (d) Thames

27. Fusion of Indian and Iranian architecture can be seen in which of the following:

- (a) Panch Mahal
- (b) Taj Mahal
- (c) Gol Gumbaz
- (d) Sher Shah Mausoleum

28. The average percentage of inflation in 1991 was:

- (a) 16.5%
- (b) 13.5%
- (c) 11.5%
- (d) 12.8%

29. The name of the wildlife reserve which is included in the world heritage list is:

- (a) Ranthambhor
- (b) Bharatpur
- (c) Sariska
- (d) Kanha National Park

30. The name of the wildlife reserve which has developed recently is:

- (a) Nilgiri
- (b) Sunderbans
- (c) Darjeeling
- (d) Jim Corbett

31. In India Geo-Thermal energy is produced at:

- (a) Tuticorin
- (b) Manikaran hills
- (c) Khambhat
- (d) Goa

32. In photosynthesis the following processes occur:

- (a) Oxygen is taken by the plants and Carbondioxide is released
- (b) Carbondioxide is taken by

the plants and oxygen is released

- (c) The green pigment is split by sunlight
- (d) Water is released

33. Where is the headquarters of the European Economic Community?

- (a) Vatican City
- (b) Brussels
- (c) London
- (d) Berlin

34. What are the two important centres which have been named in the Ganga Cleaning Plan?

- (1) Rishikesh
- (2) Kanpur
- (3) Allahabad
- (4) Banaras (Varanasi)

- (a) 1 & 3
- (b) 1 & 2
- (c) 3 & 2
- (d) 2 & 4

35. Rag Kalpadram has been written by:

- (a) Radha Krishna
- (b) Vyas
- (b) Bhoja
- (c) Pandit Ravi Shankar

36. Which dam is being built on the river Bhagirathi?

- (a) Thein Dam
- (b) Tehri Dam
- (c) Nagarjuna Sagar
- (d) Rihand Dam

37. Isotherms are lines on a map which join the places having the same:

- (a) pressure
- (b) mean temperature
- (c) humidity
- (d) None of these

38. Nobel Peace Prize for 1990 was given to:

- (a) Mikhail Gorbachov
- (b) Dalai Lama
- (c) Perez de Cuellar
- (d) None of these

39. Sharda Act is related to:

- (a) widow marriage
- (b) child marriage
- (c) inter-caste marriage
- (d) None of these

40. Who among the following is the first "International Grand Master" in India?

- (a) Bhagya Shree Thipse
- (b) Debendu Barua
- (c) V. Anand
- (d) None of these

41. What is "Black Box"?

- (a) An instrument used to detect minerals below ocean
- (b) A "box" containing black

minerals

- (c) A "recorder" placed in the pilot's cabin to record cockpit voices
- (d) None of these

42. What is "Doldrums"?

- (a) a type of wind
- (b) a type of soil
- (c) a type of rock
- (d) None of these

43. Dada Saheb Phalke Award for 1988 was given to which famous film personality?

- (a) Ashok Kumar
- (b) Raj Kapoor
- (c) Lata Mangeshkar
- (d) None of these

44. What is "Super-301"?

- (a) A supersonic fighter plane of U.S.A.
- (b) India's latest submarine
- (c) A law related to "trade activities of U.S.A. with another country"
- (d) None of these

45. Who is the present Chief Justice of India?

- (a) R.S. Pathak
- (b) M.H. Kania
- (c) R.N. Mishra
- (d) None of these

46. Todarmal, one of the "nine jewels" to the court of Akbar, was a famous:

- (a) musician
- (b) social development expert
- (c) poet
- (d) None of these

47. Election Commission in India is under the:

- (a) Parliament
- (b) President
- (c) Supreme Court
- (d) Independent body

48. Who is the first elected Prime Minister of Nepal?

- (a) B.P. Koirala
- (b) K.P. Battarai
- (c) G.P. Koirala
- (d) None of these

49. What was the "Mascot" of the 1982's New Delhi Asian Games?

- (a) Cub
- (b) Dove
- (c) Child elephant
- (d) None of these

50. India has now how many States?

- (a) 22
- (b) 23
- (c) 24
- (d) 25

51. M.F. Hussain is related to:

- (a) painting
- (b) vocal music

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

- (c) journalism
(d) poetry
52. On which date was the Constitution of India adopted by the Constituent Assembly?
(a) 26th January, 1950
(b) 30th October, 1948
(c) 26th November, 1949
(d) 15th August, 1947
53. Narora is situated in:
(a) Madhya Pradesh
(b) Gujarat
(c) Uttar Pradesh
(d) Bihar
54. Seismograph is an instrument used to
(a) read the intensity of earthquake
(b) draw geographical maps
(c) measure humidity
(d) None of these
55. India's first surface-to-air missile is
(a) Prithvi (b) Akash
(c) Trishul (d) Agni
56. "Ozone layer" protects the earth from
(a) Cosmic rays
(b) X-rays
(c) ultra-violet rays
(d) infrared rays
57. "Hook's Law" is related to.
(a) magnetism
(b) electricity
(c) elasticity
(d) optics
58. The system of reading by the blinds was invented by:
(a) Braille
(b) Morse
(c) Marconi
(d) None of these
59. In which year the States Reorganisation Act in India came into force?
(a) 1952 (b) 1954
(c) 1956 (d) 1958
60. The International Court of Justice is situated in.
(a) New York
(b) Geneva
(c) The Hague
(d) Washington
61. The former Soviet President, Mikhail Gorbachov, resigned on:
(a) 25th December, 1991
(b) 21st December, 1991
(c) 10th December, 1991
(d) 3rd January, 1992
62. "Dronacharya Award" is given to the:
(a) Best athlete of the year
(b) Best cricketer
- (c) Best archer
(d) Best coach
63. A statement printed on white paper, issued by government for the information of Parliament is called:
(a) Bond paper
(b) Agreement paper
(c) White paper
(d) None of these
64. Red-cross movement was launched by:
(a) Mother Teresa
(b) J.H. Dunant
(c) Missionaries of Charity
(d) None of these
65. Provincial Autonomy was introduced in India during the regime of.
(a) Wellington
(b) Linlithgow
(c) Rippon
(d) Canning
66. Lactometer is used to:
(a) check purity of milk
(b) detect blood group
(c) find fracture point
(d) None of these
67. "World Human Rights Day" is observed on:
(a) 5th February
(b) 25th March
(c) 5th June
(d) 10th December
68. Brahmo Samaj was founded by:
(a) Vivekanand
(b) Ramakrishna Parmhansa
(c) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
(d) None of these
69. B.C. Roy awards are given for excellence in which field?
(a) journalism
(b) politics
(c) films
(d) medicines
70. What does "buoy" stands for?
(a) a soap
(b) a man serving in any hotel for luggage transportation or as a guide
(c) a chemical
(d) None of these
71. Petroleum was first detected in India at:
(a) Barauni
(b) Bombay High
(c) Digboi
(d) Ankleshwar
72. Who is the "fastest man" in the world at present?
(a) S. Bubka
(b) B. Jonson
- (c) Carl Lewis
(d) None of these
73. Who is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Rajya Sabha?
(a) Prime Minister
(b) President
(c) Vice-President
(d) Chief Justice of India
74. "Khilafat Movement" which was launched in 1920 related to:
(a) Simon Commission boycott
(b) Treaty of Sevres between Allied Powers and Turkey
(c) Chauri Chaura incident
(d) None of these
75. "Bhagwat Gita" was written in:
(a) Tamil (b) Hindi
(c) Sanskrit (d) Kannada
(e) None of these
76. Golconda is in which State?
(a) Andhra Pradesh
(b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Madhya Pradesh
(d) Orissa
77. Who is the "Constitutional Head" of Goa?
(a) Lt-Governor
(b) Deputy Governor
(c) Governor
(d) None of these
78. Which among the following is the biggest island in the world?
(a) Madagascar
(b) Sri Lanka
(c) Greenland
(d) Borneo
79. Bhoodan Movement was started by:
(a) Acharya Kripalani
(b) Gopal Krishan Gokhale
(c) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
(d) Vinoba Bhave
80. Recent meeting of "CHOGM" was held at:
(a) Paris
(b) Harare
(c) Melbourne
(d) Belgrade
81. Minimum age to be elected for Lok Sabha is:
(a) 20 years
(b) 25 years
(c) 30 years
(d) 35 years
82. Kaziranga National Park is in:
(a) U.P.
(b) M.P.
(c) Assam
(d) Tamil Nadu

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

83. What is the currency of Iran?
 (a) Rial
 (b) Dinar
 (c) Rupee
 (d) Dollar
84. Zurich is a city in:
 (a) Switzerland
 (b) U.S.A.
 (c) Canada
 (d) None of these
85. "Sharjah '91" cricket Cup was won by:
 (a) India
 (b) Pakistan
 (c) West Indies
 (d) None of these
86. Forest Research Institute is situated at:
 (a) Mussoorie
 (b) Hyderabad
 (c) Dehra Dun
 (d) Shimla
87. "Slave Dynasty" in India was established by.
 (a) Iltutmish
 (b) Balban
 (c) Alauddin
 (d) None of these
88. "Charak Samhita" is a book related to:
 (a) politics
 (b) medicine
 (c) religion
 (d) None of these
89. "Anemometer" is an instrument for measuring:
 (a) humidity of wind
 (b) current
 (c) speed of wind or any other moving gas
 (d) None of these
90. Which body approves the proposals of Five-Year Planning:
 (a) Planning Commission
 (b) Parliament
 (c) National Development Council
 (d) None of these
91. An extensive inlet penetrating far into the land (a large, deep bay), is known as:
 (a) Island
 (b) Peninsula
 (c) Gulf
 (d) None of these
92. A piece of land surrounded by water from all sides in an ocean, sea, lake or river, is called:
 (a) an island
 (b) peninsula
 (c) estuary
 (d) None of these
93. "Khajuraho" temples were

- built by:
 (a) the Pallavas
 (b) the Chandellas
 (c) the Hoysalas
 (d) None of these
94. Who was the first to reach South Pole?
 (a) Robert Peary
 (b) Amundsen
 (c) Magellan
95. What is deficit budgeting?
 (a) earning more than the expenditure
 (b) expenditure more than the earning
 (c) expenditure and earnings are equal
 (d) None of these
96. The present Prime Minister of Japan is
 (a) Akihito
 (b) Toshiki Kaifu
 (c) Y Nakasone
 (d) None of these
97. Who was responsible for pointing out the importance of "Zero"?
 (a) Aryabhatta
 (b) Newton
 (c) Edison
 (d) None of these
98. Which Test cricket player has made the maximum centuries in the world?
 (a) Viv Richards
 (b) Zaheer Abbas
 (c) Allan Border
 (d) Sunil Gavaskar
99. Sextant is a scientific instrument for measuring:
 (a) altitude of the sun and other inaccessible heavenly bodies
 (b) curvature of earth's surface
 (c) for recording rainfall
 (d) None of these
100. What is devaluation?
 (a) increasing production of currency
 (b) increasing the value of rupee in terms of other international currencies
 (c) decreasing the value of rupee compared to other international currencies
101. Oxygen was discovered by:
 (a) J.J. Thomson
 (b) Joseph Priestley
 (c) James Chadwick
 (d) None of these
102. The World Bank provides loan to the less developed countries generally at the interest rate of:

- (a) 2.5%
 (b) 7.5%
 (c) 6%
 (d) 10%

103. Which atomic-rich mineral is largely found in India?

- (a) Thorium
 (b) Radium
 (c) Uranium
 (d) None of these

104. Operation Black Board is related to:

- (a) compulsory education upto 14 years of age
 (b) child education
 (c) Adult education
 (d) None of these

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (a) | 3. (d) |
| 4. (c) | 5. (c) | 6. (b) |
| 7. (c) | 8. (b) | 9. (c) |
| 10. (c) | 11. (a) | 12. (c) |
| 13. (d) | 14. (b) | 15. (a) |
| 16. (b) | 17. (d) | 18. (c) |
| 19. (c) | 20. (b) | 21. (b) |
| 22. (a) | 23. (c) | 24. (a) |
| 25. (c) | 26. (c) | 27. (b) |
| 28. (b) | 29. (b) | 30. (a) |
| 31. (b) | 32. (b) | 33. (b) |
| 34. (d) | 35. (a) | 36. (b) |
| 37. (b) | 38. (a) | 39. (b) |
| 40. (c) | 41. (c) | 42. (a) |
| 43. (a) | 44. (c) | 45. (b) |
| 46. (b) | 47. (d) | 48. (c) |
| 49. (c) | 50. (d) | 51. (a) |
| 52. (c) | 53. (c) | 54. (a) |
| 55. (b) | 56. (c) | 57. (c) |
| 58. (a) | 59. (c) | 60. (c) |
| 61. (a) | 62. (d) | 63. (c) |
| 64. (b) | 65. (b) | 66. (a) |
| 67. (d) | 68. (c) | 69. (d) |
| 70. (b) | 71. (c) | 72. (c) |
| 73. (c) | 74. (b) | 75. (c) |
| 76. (a) | 77. (c) | 78. (c) |
| 79. (d) | 80. (b) | 81. (b) |
| 82. (c) | 83. (a) | 84. (a) |
| 85. (b) | 86. (c) | 87. (a) |
| 88. (b) | 89. (c) | 90. (c) |
| 91. (c) | 92. (a) | 93. (b) |
| 94. (b) | 95. (b) | 96. (b) |
| 97. (a) | 98. (d) | 99. (a) |
| 100. (c) | 101. (b) | 102. (a) |
| 103. (c) | 104. (c) | |

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

* Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words in the passage are given in **BOLD** to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions:

Once upon a time there lived a Giant in an ancient castle surrounded by a **lovely** garden. While the Giant was away, children returning from school used to play in the garden every evening. There were flowers on all the trees during spring and fruits during autumn. The children liked this garden very much.

One day the Giant returned and drove the children away. He then built a **huge** wall around the garden. The children became quite unhappy. They all walked around the garden wall in sad silence.

Days passed. Spring came and everywhere outside the garden there were flowers smiling and birds singing. But neither flowers nor birds **emerged** in the selfish Giant's garden. Snow and frost settled down permanently in the garden. The Giant wondered why spring forgot to visit his garden that year.

One fine morning the Giant noticed that the little children had stolen into the garden through a hole in the wall. They were sitting on the branches of trees and every tree was in full bloom. The birds were singing and the garden was filled with joy. Only in the **farthest** corner it was still winter and the tree there was covered with snow. A little boy was seen crying bitterly under the tree because he was too small to climb it. The Giant stepped out into the garden. All the children ran away at the sight of him. The little boy did not see the Giant because his eyes were full of tears. Winter returned to the garden as soon as the children left. The Giant walked up from behind the weeping child and lifted him to a branch of the tree. At once the tree blossomed and birds started singing. The little boy put out his hands and kissed the Giant. The Giant **realised** his mistake. He repented sincerely and pulled down the wall to let the children play freely in his garden.

1. Spring stayed away from the

Giant's garden because:

- (a) the Giant had driven away the children from the garden.
- (b) snow and frost had settled down in the garden.
- (c) the children were plucking flowers from the garden.
- (d) the Giant had decided to have winter in the garden.
- (e) the wall prevented it from entering the garden.

2. The Giant stepped out into the garden because he wanted to:

- (a) drive the children away from the garden.
- (b) repent for his mistake.
- (c) play with the children.
- (d) listen to the song of the birds.
- (e) place the little boy on a branch of the tree.

3. The little boy did not run when the Giant entered the garden because:

- (a) he was too small to run.
- (b) he did not see the Giant.
- (c) he was not afraid of the Giant.
- (d) he wanted to kiss the Giant.
- (e) he wanted the Giant to lift him.

4. Snow and frost remained in the garden as long as:

- (a) the Giant stayed away from the garden.
- (b) spring remained in the corner of the garden.
- (c) birds sang in the garden.
- (d) the children stayed away from the garden.
- (e) the Giant stayed in the castle.

5. The Giant constructed a wall around his garden to:

- (a) prevent the children from plucking flowers from the garden.
- (b) protect his castle from winter.
- (c) prevent snow and frost from entering the garden.
- (d) prevent spring from leaving the garden.
- (e) prevent the children from

playing in the garden.

6. Winter remained in the corner of the garden till the Giant:

- (a) placed the little boy on a branch of a tree.
- (b) realised his mistake and repented.
- (c) stepped out into the garden.
- (d) destroyed the huge wall surrounding his garden.
- (e) noticed the children sitting on the branches of the trees.

7. The Giant observed one fine morning that:

- (a) only one tree in the farthest corner of the garden was covered with snow.
- (b) the children were making a hole in the garden wall.
- (c) only one tree in the garden was in bloom.
- (d) the children were sitting on the branches of trees and plucking fruits.
- (e) birds had stopped singing in his garden.

8. The little boy was crying because:

- (a) he wanted to enter the garden.
- (b) he was kept away by the other children.
- (c) he fell down from the tree.
- (d) he could not climb the tree.
- (e) he was smaller than the other boys.

9. Which of the following statement is NOT TRUE in the context of the passage:

- (a) Winter settled in the garden in the absence of the children.
- (b) The little boy started crying when he saw the Giant.
- (c) The Giant was very selfish till he realised his mistake.
- (d) The children ran away when they saw the Giant entering the garden on one fine morning.
- (e) The tree in the farthest corner blossomed when the little boy sat on one of its branches.

* Choose the word which is most nearly the **SAME** in meaning as the word given in **BOLD** and used in the passage:

10. **realised**:

- (a) remembered
(b) understood
(c) stopped (d) showed
(e) forgave

11. **ancient**:

- (a) big (b) mighty
(c) modern (d) old
(e) ruined

12. **lovely**:

- (a) kind (b) flowering
(c) pretty (d) large
(e) playful

* Choose the word which is most **OPPOSITE** in meaning of the word given in **BOLD** and used in the passage:

13. **huge**:

- (a) tiny (b) long
(c) weak (d) high
(e) few

14. **emerged**:

- (a) destroyed (b) showed
(c) disappeared (d) remained
(e) changed

15. **farthest**:

- (a) nearest (b) distant
(c) smallest (d) last
(e) shortest

* Read each sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. The number of that part is the answer. If there is no error, the answer is "5" i.e. No error. (Ignore the errors of punctuation, if any.)

16. On the time of (1) the house collapse (2) all the people in the (3) house were asleep (4). No error (5).

17. Scarcely had I (1) walked out of my office (2) then I saw my friend (3) coming towards me (4). No error (5).

18. While the teacher (1) was narrating the (2) incident, all the (3) students remained silence (4). No error (5).

19. Police succeeded in arresting (1) the criminals involved (2) in the crime after (3) a thoroughly investigation (4). No error (5).

20. No sooner did I receive (1) the urgent message then (2) I started contacting (3) my relatives in Madras (4). No error (5).

21. It was her father (1) who prevented her (2) in accepting the job (3) of an Air-Hostess (4). No error (5).

22. Neither Prasant nor his (1) wife was present (2) in the house when (3) I went to meet them (4). No error (5).

23. The mother advised to (1) her daughter to come back (2) from school as soon as (3) the class was over (4). No error (5).

24. The normal life of (1) the city was paralysed (2) inspite of strong winds (3) and heavy rains (4). No error (5).

25. Some of the problems (1) given in the book (2) are as difficult (3) for her to solve (4). No error (5).

* Pick out the most effective word from the given words to fill the blank to make the sentence meaningfully complete.

26. Nilesh was advised by his parents to care _____ his health.

- (a) on (b) to (c) at
(d) over (e) of

27. I am waiting to take you to his house _____ you want to go

- (a) whomsoever
(b) whenever
(c) wherever (d) whichever
(e) whatsoever

28. A relief team was sent to _____ food and medicines among the refugees.

- (a) contribute (b) sanction
(c) share (d) separate
(e) distribute

29. I changed my pen in accordance _____ his suggestion.

- (a) at (b) with (c) from
(d) to (e) by

30. None of my relatives is staying in Bombay _____ me.

- (a) apart (b) without
(c) otherwise (d) except
(e) although

31. The house is so badly damaged due to the earthquake that it _____ to be rebuilt.

- (a) need (b) needing
(c) needs (d) needy
(e) needed

32. He will not be admitted in the college _____ he produces a valid certificate.

- (a) unless (b) despite
(c) because (d) however
(e) without

33. Both Kamlesh and his wife Kavita _____ seen in the function.

- (a) were (b) had (c) is
(d) was (e) has

34. The show went _____ in spite of protests from a section of the crowd.

- (a) in (b) of (c) about
(d) for (e) on

35. The old man was too weak to _____ up from the bed.

- (a) rose (b) arise
(c) risen (d) rise
(e) arose

* Rearrange the following five sentences A, B, C, D and E in proper sequence so as to make a meaningful paragraph and then answer the questions given below:

- A. I asked him about his present job.
B. then he asked me about my job
C. It was near the railway station that I met Ashok
D. I told him that I did not have a job
E. He said that he was working in a bank.

36. Which of the following should be the *Third* sentence?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
(4) D (5) E

37. Which of the following should be the *Fourth* sentence?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
(4) D (5) E

38. Which of the following should be the *Last* sentence?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
(4) D (5) E

39. Which of the following should be the *Second* sentence?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
(4) D (5) E

40. Which of the following should be the *First* sentence?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C
(4) D (5) E

ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a) | 2. (e) | 3. (b) | 4. (d) |
| 5. (e) | 6. (a) | 7. (a) | 8. (d) |
| 9. (b) | 10. (b) | 11. (d) | 12. (c) |
| 13. (a) | 14. (c) | 15. (a) | |
| 16. (1) | 'At the time of' | | |
| 17. (3) | 'when I saw my friend' | | |
| 18. (4) | 'remained silent' | | |
| 19. (4) | 'a thorough investigation' | | |
| 20. (2) | 'the urgent message than' | | |
| 21. (3) | 'from accepting the job' | | |
| 22. (5) | No error | | |
| 23. (1) | 'The mother advised' | | |
| 24. (3) | 'on account of' | | |
| 25. (3) | 'quite/very difficult' | | |
| 26. (e) | 27. (b) | 28. (c) | 29. (b) |
| 30. (d) | 31. (c) | 32. (a) | 33. (a) |
| 34. (e) | 35. (d) | 36. E | 37. B |
| 38. D | 39. A | 40. C | |

TEST OF REASONING—I

Find the odd-man out:

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. (a) BGFED | (b) JOML |
| (c) IYVV | (d) NUQP |
| 2. (a) JGKHI | (b) MKNI |
| (c) SQIR | (d) DBEC |
| 3. (a) PONQ | (b) ZYXA |
| (c) UTSW | (d) MLKN |
| 4. (a) JKMP | (b) BC FJJ |
| (c) NOQT | (d) STVZ |
| 5. (a) GEC A | (b) PNLJ |
| (c) ZXUS | (d) RPNL |
| 6. (a) DWVF | (b) GISH |
| (c) JPOK | (d) AZYB |

In each of the following letter sequences some letters have been left out and are given in the same order in one of the four alternatives. Your task is to tick-mark (✓) the right choice.

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 7. ab-abc-bc-bca-c | (a) bccb | (b) caac | (c) baca | (d) caab |
| 8. cba-c-accb-c-bac | (a) bbac | (b) cbac | (c) cbab | (d) bacc |
| 9. bca-b-aabc-a-caa | (a) acab | (b) babb | (c) ccab | (d) cbab |
| 10. a-bcabb-abc-aab- | (a) accc | (b) abac | (c) cbcc | (d) bcac |
| 11. ab-b-acab-bcbc- | (a) cbca | (b) abac | (c) ccaa | (d) cbaa |

In each of the number series given below, one number is missing. Find it out from the choice given below:

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 12. 21, 22; 24, 27; 31; 36, .. | (a) 41 | (b) 72 | (c) 42 | (d) 44 |
| 13. 15, 16, 20; 29; 45; .. | (a) 90 | (b) 95 | (c) 74 | (d) 70 |
| 14. 4; 9; 19; 39; 79, | (a) 139 | (b) 149 | (c) 159 | (d) 169 |
| 15. 6; 9, 15; 27; 51, ... | (a) 102 | (b) 94 | (c) 89 | (d) 99 |
| 16. 5, 15; 3; 12; 4; 16; .. | (a) 6 | (b) 4 | (c) 8 | (d) 1 |
| 17. 15; 23; 32; 41; 14; 23; 32; ... | (a) 64 | (b) 51 | (c) 55 | (d) 40 |
| 18. 5; 12; 26; 47; 75; .. | | | | |

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| (a) 110 | (b) 152 | (c) 123 | (d) 102 | |
| 19. 1; 2, 3, 1; 4, 9; 1, 8; . | (a) 25 | (b) 27 | (c) 18 | (d) 21 |
| 20. 2, 3, 4, 6, 8; 9, 16, 12; | (a) 24 | (b) 20 | (c) 22 | (d) 32 |

In the following questions, the first two numbers have certain relationship. Your task is to find out the right number from the given choice so that the numbers in the second set have a similar relationship.

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| 21. 9 80 as 100 : ? | (a) 1009 | (b) 9999 | (c) 901 | (d) 9889 |
| 22. 25 125 as 36 : ? | (a) 180 | (b) 206 | (c) 318 | (d) 216 |
| 23. 163 361 as 518 : ? | (a) 821 | (b) 1002 | (c) 815 | (d) 1036 |
| 24. 7 56 as 9 : ? | (a) 63 | (b) 81 | (c) 99 | (d) 90 |

In the equations given below, two signs have been interchanged. You have to find them out so as to make the equation correct.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 25. $25 + 5 + 17 \times 2 - 6 = 10$ | (a) + and - | (b) \times and - |
| | (c) - and - | (d) \div and + |
| 26. $-12 + 2 \times 9 + 3 = 6$ | (a) \times and + | (b) - and + |
| | (c) - and + | (d) - and \times |
| 27. $19 - 3 \times 4 + 24 \div 2 = 19$ | (a) - and + | (b) \times and + |
| | (c) - and \times | (d) + and \times |
| 28. $42 - 16 \times 2 + 7 + 3 = 55$ | (a) + and - | (b) \times and + |
| | (c) + and - | (d) \times and \div |

Given below is a series of letters. Answer questions 29 and 30 on the basis of the study of this series.

A F B M F B M A M F B M A M F B T M T F B A B M F A

29. How many Fs are followed by B but not preceded by A?

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| (a) 3 | (b) 4 | (c) 5 | (d) 6 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|

30. Which letter has the highest frequency?

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| (a) A | (b) B | (c) F | (d) M |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|

Each of the questions given below has two items.
Mark your answers:

- (A) if one is the product of the other.
- (B) if one belongs to the other.
- (C) if one is the cause of the other.
- (D) if one is opposite of the other.
- (E) if both belong to the same category.

31. penguin : reindeer
32. union : divorce
33. coal : diamond
34. marble : granite
35. warrior : sword
36. stampede : confusion
37. dirt : disease
38. man : society

In the following questions, the items have a definite relationship. Your task is to tick-mark the choice with similar relationship.

39. prose : poetry
 - (a) solid : liquid
 - (b) shoes : feet
 - ▼ (c) cricket : polo
 - (d) dictionary : words
40. patience : eagerness
 - (a) job : promotion
 - (b) active : lazy
 - (c) tired : rest
 - (d) pain : hurt
41. evaporation : cloud
 - (a) pressure : atmosphere
 - (b) thought : mind
 - (c) mountain : snow
 - (d) tension : break-down
42. vaccination : body
 - (a) result : studies
 - (b) pesticides : plant
 - (c) injection : symptoms
 - (d) medicine : capsules
43. painting : art
 - (a) twist : dance
 - (b) book : library
 - (c) prayer : god
 - (d) telephone : conversation
44. line : square
 - (a) altitude : triangle
 - (b) tangent : curve
 - (c) arc : circle
 - (d) degree : angle
45. India : China
 - (a) Bihar : West Bengal

- (b) France : England
- (c) Tibet : Iran
- (d) Burma : Pakistan

Words in questions given below are written in code.
You have to find out the right code for letters enclosed in box.

46. C A [R] P E T
(a) d (b) k (c) f (d) m (e) v (f) j
47. P L I G [H] T
(a) x (b) u (c) q (d) d (e) s (f) k
48. [S] T R O N G
(a) c (b) u (c) w (d) z (e) d (f) m
49. C H O R [U] S
(a) m (b) f (c) w (d) x (e) z (f) l
50. S U [N] D A Y
(a) l (b) c (c) g (d) j (e) b (f) w
51. T R I C [K] Y
(a) f (b) h (c) d (d) q (e) g (f) m

According to a certain code:

'Fans are very cheap' is b c d e

'Some fans are expensive' is b e f g

'Bulbs are very expensive' is e d f h

52. What would be the code for 'Some bulbs are cheap'.
(a) beg h (b) d f g h (c) c e g h (d) c e f h

53. A murder was committed in a certain area and five persons A, B, C, D and E were called as witness. Four persons told one lie and one truth but one witness told the whole truth. Find out this one witness on the basis of statements given:

- A. The crime was committed at 9 P.M. and the murderer had a white shirt on.
 - B. The murderer wore a blue shirt and it was 8 P.M.
 - C. It was 9 P.M. and the murderer had put on a blue shirt.
 - D. The murderer had a blue shirt on and the time was 8 P.M.
 - E. The time was 9 P.M. and the murderer had put on a white shirt.
- (a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D
(e) E

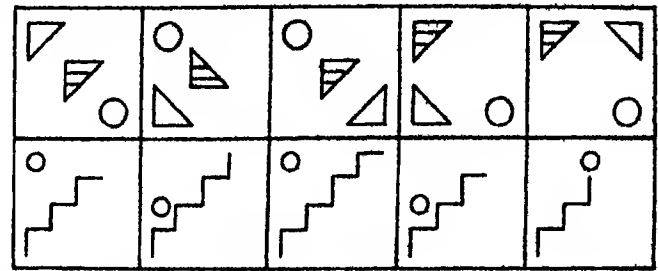
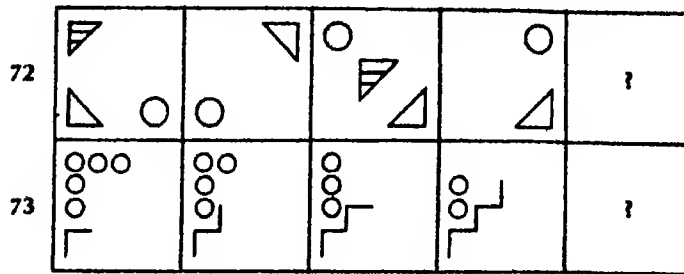
Among five girls A, B, C, D and E, E is taller than B but shorter than G. D is taller than A but shorter than B.

54. Who is the tallest?

55. Who would occupy fourth position if they stood according to height with the tallest girl being the first?

Five ministers A, B, C, D and E hold certain portfolios. On the basis of the information given below, match the right parts:

B and D do not have Defence or Railways.



ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (d) 2. (a) 3. (c) 4. (d)
5. (c) 6. (c)
7. (d) The series is abc/abc/abc...
8. (b) The series is cbac/cbac/cbac...
9. (a) The series is bcaa/bcaa/bcaa...
10. (a) The series is aabc/abbc/abcc/aabc...
11. (c) The series is abc/bca/cab/abc...
12. (c) Add 1, 2, 3, 4 ... to numbers.
13. (d) Add $1^2, 2^2, 3^2, 4^2$... to numbers.
14. (c) Each next number is double + 1 of the preceding number.
15. (d) Go on adding 3, 6, 12, 24, 48 ... to numbers.
16. (b) Each alternate number, 15, 12, 16 ... is the product of numbers on its right and left.
17. (b) After 41, the digits of numbers are reversed.
18. (a) Add 7, 14, 21, 28 ... to numbers.
19. (b) The series is $x, y, z, x^2, y^2, z^2, x^3, y^3, z^3$.
20. (d) There are two series, 2, 4, 8 and 3, 6, 9 ...
21. (b) The relationship is $x : x^2 - 1$
22. (d) The relationship is $x^2 : x^3$.
23. (c) The digits are reversed.
24. (d) The relationship is $x : x \times (x + 1)$
25. (b)
26. (b)
27. (a)
28. (d)
29. (b)
30. (d)
31. E
32. D
33. A
34. E
35. B
36. C
37. C
38. B
39. (c) Just as the terms belong to literature in the same way the other two are games.
40. (b) The words are opposites.
41. (d) One causes the other.
42. (b) One protects the other from harm.
43. (a) One is a form of the other.
44. (c) One is a part of the other.
45. (a) The places have neighbourhood relationship.

46. to 51. Match common letters with common codes, e.g. 'R' occurs in 46, 48 and 49, so does the code letter 'm' hence it is the code for 'R'.
46. (d) 47. (a) 48. (c) 49. (f)
50. (b) 51. (b)
52. (c) Use the above method for words.
53. (c)
54. (c)
55. D
56. (b)
57. (c)
58. (d)
59. (a)
60. (c)
61. (d)
62. (b)
63. (a)
64. (c) The plus figure with an extra tail hops down in three steps rotating anti-clockwise. 'E' moves along four corners rotating clockwise and dot shifting.
65. E. The ellipse shifts left and right, the other one changes alternately and moves one step extra.
66. E. Figures at the end change alternately the other one goes to left in three steps changing direction.
67. A. Square goes round anti-clockwise covering one step extra with each movement, the triangle moves along four corners tilting and the circle has right and left movement, retaining the same pattern twice
68. C. The line at the bottom goes to the top and the figure shifts to the other end.
69. C. One circle and one triangle is added according to a definite pattern and the figure at the opposite corner has a three step movement.
70. B. Dot, dash and line are added according to a definite pattern.
71. D. The line shifts to right getting bigger and smaller, the flag changes direction and moves from right to left in three steps and there is one extra cloud.
72. E. Triangle with pattern comes to the centre and goes back to its place but disappears alternately, the other triangle goes round anti-clockwise covering one step extra and the circle goes from corner to corner clockwise.
73. D. One line is added to the steps and one circle disappears from right end.

TEST OF REASONING—II

Find the odd-man out:

1. (a) mountain (b) river (c) canal
(d) valley (e) glacier
2. (a) fear (b) love (c) liking
(d) discipline (e) hate
3. (a) cotton (b) plastic (c) timber
(d) iron (e) marble
4. (a) party (b) union (c) committee
(d) jury (e) colony
5. (a) group (b) flock (c) army
(d) herd (e) crowd
6. (a) dissemble (b) petition (c) grievance
(d) protest (e) dissent
7. (a) bishop (b) knight (c) minister
(d) queen (e) rook
8. (a) comedy (b) tragedy (c) buffoonery
(d) farce (e) drollery
9. (a) robin (b) penguin (c) swallow
(d) sparrow (e) python
10. (a) rim (b) spoke (c) steering
(d) saddle (e) brakes.

What is common in the following?

11. albatross : sandpiper : curlew
(a) They are musical instruments.
(b) They are certain species that have disappeared.
(c) They are water birds.
(d) They are imaginary creatures.
12. crocodile : chameleon : tortoise
(a) They keep on changing colour.
(b) They are reptiles.
(c) They have hard shells.
(d) They live near water.
13. stirrup : anvil : drum
(a) The items are used by riders.
(b) They are parts of ear.
(c) They are musical instruments.
(d) They are used by folk-artists.
14. fumble : grope : feel
(a) The terms are related to human sentiments.
(b) The terms are related to emotion.
(c) The terms mean displaying tensions.

(d) They are related to know or find things by hands.

15. vigour : vitality : stamina

- (a) The terms are related to inner strength.
- (b) The terms are a measurement for tolerance.
- (c) The terms are related to one's instinct for fighting.
- (d) The terms are related to medicines.

16. Players A, B and C have a certain number of balls. If B gives eight balls to C, C will have double of A, if however, B gives 7 balls to A, both A and C will have equal number of balls. How many balls does B have if the total number of balls is 56?

- (a) 19 (b) 17 (c) 21 (d) 18

Four members of a musical party Sagar, Hari, Mahavir and Satya play sitar, violin, flute and tabla.

Each instrument is played by two persons and each person plays two instruments.

Satya and Hari do not play sitar.

Sagar and Mahavir do not play flute.

Mahavir and Hari do not play tabla.

17. Which two persons play violin?

- (a) Satya and Hari
- (b) Sagar and Satya
- (c) Mahavir and Hari
- (d) Hari and Sagar

18. Which two instruments are played by Sagar?

- (a) sitar and tabla
- (b) sitar and violin
- (c) tabla and violin
- (d) tabla and flute

Tick-mark (✓) from a, b, c and d the right mirror image of the word given in question.

(19) NAGPUR

- (a) RUPGAN (b) RUPGAN
(c) NAGPUR (d) RUPGAN

(20) BARODA

- (a) BARODA (b) BARODA
(c) ADORAB (d) ADORAB

(21) BHOPAL

- (a) BHOPAL (b) BHOPAL
(c) BHOPAL (d) BHOPAL

(22) GUDGAON

- (a) GUDGAON (b) GUDGAON
(c) GUDGAON (d) GUDGAON

In following questions some words are followed by the lead word. These words are related to the lead word in some way, but one of these is slightly different. You have to find out this odd-man.

23. ANTICIPATION

- (a) TROPIC (b) COTTON
(c) CONNECT (d) POACH

24. ESTABLISHMENT

- (a) AMBUSH (b) STABLE
(c) STATION (d) TESTAMENT

25. RECIPROCATATE

- (a) TRACE (b) CREATIF
(c) CORRECT (d) RETIRED

26. HUMILIATE

- (a) HATE (b) MATE
(c) MILE (d) TAME

According to the survey of 2000 educated unemployed persons in which 1200 were youngmen and 800 were young ladies, the following data were collected:

Qualifications	Percentage of the unemployed	
	men	women
Doctors	12.5%	15%
Engineers	20%	7.5%
Trained Teachers	15%	22.5%
Post Graduates	22.5%	25%
Graduates	30%	30%

27. What is the difference in the number of unemployed men and women doctors?

- (a) 20 (b) 30 (c) 40 (d) None

28. What is the percentage of unemployed engineers, both men and women?

- (a) 27.5%
(b) 12.5%
(c) 13.75%
(d) 15%

29. What is the difference in the number of unemployed men and women who hold a Post Graduate Degree?

- (a) 30 (b) 45 (c) 60 (d) 70

30. What is the total number of unemployed graduates?

- (a) 425 (b) 475 (c) 550 (d) 600

SYLLOGISM

TYPE I

In making decisions about important questions, it is desirable to be able to distinguish between strong arguments and weak arguments so far as they are concerned with the question. 'Weak' arguments may not be directly related to the question, may be of minor importance or may be related to some trivial aspect of the question. Each question given below is followed by two arguments numbered I and II. You have to decide which of the arguments is 'strong' and which is 'weak'. Then decide which of the answers given below and numbered (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) is the correct answer

- (a) Only I is strong.
(b) Only II is strong.
(c) Both I and II are strong.
(d) Either I or II is strong.
(e) Neither I nor II is strong.

31. Should India demand back from the British the Kohinoor?

- I. Yes, India took back her gold from the Portuguese so why shouldn't she demand back the Kohinoor
II. No, there was no such condition when the British took it away.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

32. Have modern Congress leaders departed from Gandhian policies?

- I. Yes, they no longer have any respect for the Father of the Nation
II. No, they are exactly doing the same that Gandhiji expected them to do.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

33. Will successful breeding programme of dangerous species like crocodile under the Wild Life Conservation Act create havoc in the coming years?

- I. Yes, if the population increases too much it would be a danger to the people of those areas.
II. No, the environmentalists believe that the particular species are harmless and excellent scavengers for polluted water.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

34. Does ban on milk products like 'mawa' and 'paneer' solve the problem of milk shortage?

- I. Yes, milk that was needed for these products can reach consumers.
II. No, these products are sold by the black-marketeers.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

35. Do officers feel relaxed after retirement?

- I. Yes, they no longer have job tensions and busy hours.
II. No, they miss the power and the work that

kept them occupied

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

36 Can the Government stop inflation?

- I Yes, the Government can do everything if it wants to
II No, the Government wants to promote inflation

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

37 Is ignorance really a bliss?

- I Yes, one can live so happily if one does not come across the ugliness of life
II No, everyone takes advantage of an innocent person

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

38 Are atrocities by the police justified?

- I Yes, the criminals must be treated with cruelty
II No, inhuman behaviour is never right

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE II

In each of the following question a situation has been explained through a statement followed by I and II course of action that the authorities might be considering. Tick mark (✓) your answers as follows

- (a) Only I is the right course of action for the authorities
(b) Only II is right
(c) Both I and II are right
(d) Either I or II is right
(e) Neither I nor II is right

39 Many government aided private schools are always collecting funds for any trivial reason

- I The Director of School Education should issue a 'Show-cause notice' to them
II The money collected through such funds should be subject to audit

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

40 Neighbouring countries, which have a common river flowing from them, usually have river-water disputes

- I Territories should be decided and marked in such a way that one river flows through one country only
II The amount of water in the river should be measured and divided equally between the two countries

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

41 The owner of a magazine feels that his magazine is not upto the mark hence sale is unsatisfactory

- I He should arrange special training courses for his staff to make qualitative improvement
II He would reduce price of his magazine to

attract readers

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

42 AIDS must be eliminated from the country at all costs

- I Some remote islands should be totally vacated and all the AIDS patients will be sent there
II Doctors would be forced to invent an anti-AIDS vaccination

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

43 The Council of Sports wants to search out rural talents for athletics

- I The Council would hold special rural tournaments in all the districts of the country
II They would invite applications from such talented players on specially prescribed forms

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

44 Students are very much troubled due to the noise made by loud-speakers during examination days

- I The students would threaten those who are using loud speakers
II They would request the Collector or the other highest authority of the area to put a ban on loud-speakers for a certain period

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE III

In questions given below statements I and II are followed by conclusions I and II. Taking the statements to be true although they may appear at variance with commonly accepted facts tick mark your answers as under

- (a) Only I follows from the statements
(b) Only II follows from the statements
(c) Both I and II follow from the statements
(d) Either I or II follows
(e) Neither I nor II follows

Statements

- 45 1 All drinks are tonics
2 Some tonics are poisons

Conclusions

- I Some poisons are drinks
II None of the poisons is a drink
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

- 46 1 Some bicycles are tricycles
2 Some tricycles are cars

Conclusions

- I Some cars are bicycles
II No car is a bicycle
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

- 47 1 All shirts are coats
2 All coats are jackets

Conclusions

- I All jackets are shirts
- II Some jackets are shirts

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

- 48 I Some cities are forests
- 2 All forests are lakes

Conclusions

- I Some cities are lakes
- II Some cities are not lakes

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

- 49 I Only those children are tall who do not take milk
- 2 Only those children take milk who are not prosperous

Conclusions

- I Prosperous children are tall
- II Prosperous children are not tall

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

- 50 I The trains that do not stop at Naginpur are either Passenger trains or Super fasts
- 2 The Passenger and Super fast trains stop at all the small stations only

Conclusions

- I Naginpur is a small station
- II It is a big one

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

- 51 I Tiger is more dangerous than lion who is less dangerous than the leopard
- 2 Zebra is not as dangerous as fox but is more dangerous than the tiger

Conclusions

- I Leopard is less dangerous than zebra
- II Lion is the least dangerous of all

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

- 52 I The writers who were not below fifty were not considered for the awards
- 2 Roshan, a noted writer, is above fifty

Conclusions

- I Roshan can be considered for the award
- II Roshan cannot be considered for the award

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE IV

In questions given below, a statement is followed by implications I and II. Imply I and II to the statement and tick mark your answers as under

- (a) Only I is implicit

- (b) Only II is implicit
(c) Both I and II are implicit
(d) Either I or II is implicit
(e) Neither I nor II is implicit

Statement

53 All political bigwigs have their private houses in posh colonies

Implications

- I They were born with a silver spoon in mouth
- II Posh colonies are very well protected

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

54 Very shortly India will be able to launch her space-craft without foreign help

Implications

- I Our space technology is improving by leaps and bounds
- II We cannot afford foreign aid due to our economic crisis

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

55 The terrorists have kidnapped a High Official's near relative

Implications

- I They would demand the government to free some of their men in return
- II They want to prove their means and power

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

56 Satyajit Ray was cremated with full national honours

Implications

- I It was a tribute of the nation to the great artist
- II Ray had been an active freedom fighter during the National Movement

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

57 Elections in a certain remote mountainous area are likely to be postponed

Implications

- I There is some political crisis
- II The climatic conditions are not favourable as they make communication a problem

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

58 Classical music is again gaining popularity in India

Implications

- I The modern classical singers are better than the previous ones
- II Special efforts have been made by the govt to

make the common man understand and appreciate this classical art.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

59. The price of gold is rising higher and higher.

Implications:

- I. Gold is very much in demand.
II. Smugglers are not bringing enough gold into the country

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE V

In questions given below, a situation has been explained in a few statements followed by a conclusion. You have to say whether the conclusion.

- (a) necessarily follows from the statements
(b) is only a long drawn one.
(c) definitely does not follow from the statements.
(d) can't say as the data provided is inadequate.

Statements:

60. 1. Railway reservations are made at the railway station counters only.
2. No one is allowed to travel on the reservation ticket of another.

Conclusion: Every passenger is given a different kind of ticket.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

61. 1. Certain drugs are treated as contrabands.
2. Mr X hid these drugs in his sleeve
3. The Custom Officials are very vigilant

Conclusion: Mr X was caught and punished

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

62. 1. All children love animal stories.
2. Grown ups are not interested in them.
3. Rustam, a very sharp child, is much ahead the others in intelligence and understanding.

Conclusion: Rustam likes animal stories.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

TYPE VI

A team for Cultural Performance in foreign countries is to be selected. The members should be well versed in either Indian music (classical/ghazals/instrument player) or in one of the Indian classical dances. The selection will be made on the basis of the following facts:

Nationality - Indian

Age - Not above 35 on 1.3.92. The Chairman will relax the age limit upto 5 years if the artist has given more than 27 State-level performances or atleast 10 national performances.

Qualifications: The artist must hold a P.G. degree

with I division. If the performer has received some prestigious award or has given 25 or more national-level performances, educational qualification is no bar as the candidate would be directly recommended for selection by the Director of the Selection Board.

Performances: The artist must have given 20 State-level and 5 national-level performances. If he/she has given more than 10 national-level performances, the Screening Committee would grant him/her a latitude of five State-level performances but even in that case 15 State-level performances is a must. The Committee would also recommend the artist if State-performances are 25 or more and national-level performances at least two.

Given below are the details of ten candidates. On the basis of the above rules mark your answers as under:

- A. The candidate will be directly selected.
B. The candidate will be selected on the recommendation of the Screening Committee.
C. The candidate would be selected on the recommendation of the chairman.
D. The candidate would be selected on the recommendation of the Director.
E. The candidate will not be selected.

63. Ragini (M.A. I Div) was born on 26.1.65. She has given 27 State-level performances and 9 national-level performances. She is an Indian citizen. She plays sitar.

- A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

64. Mohan : Nationality - Indian ; M.A. I Div ; born on 12.4.66, a classical singer has given 26 State-level and 3 national-level performances.

- A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

65. Suresh : Nationality - Indian ; M.A. II Div ; born on 23.10.64, a Kathak dancer has given 22 State-level and 2 national-level performances.

- A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

66. Kalpana : Nationality - Indian ; M.A. I Div ; born on 16.6.67, plays veena. She has given 16 State-level and 11 national-level performances.

- A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

67. Sarita : Nationality - Indian ; High School I Div ; born on 1.1.66, is a Manipuri dancer. She has received a prestigious State award and has given 30 State and 26 national-level performances.

- A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

68. Rashid : Nationality - Indian ; M.A. I Div ; born on 3.10.67, a ghazal singer has successfully given 25 State and 6 national-level performances.

- A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

69. Meena : Nationality - Indian ; M.A. I Div ; born on

2.2.68, has received a national award as a flute player. She has given 20 State and 10 national-level performances.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

70. Chandrakant : Nationality - Indian ; M.A. I Div ; born on 28.2.64, a famous classical singer, has given 25 State-level and 12 national-level performances. His name has been recommended for a national award.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

71. Virendra : Nationality - Indian , M.A. I Div ; born on 1.5.65, is a performer of Break Dance. He has given 40 State and 30 national-level performances and has been awarded State as well as other prizes.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ F ☐

72. Kamini : Nationality - Indian ; B.A. I Div, born on 5.7.67, is an Odissi dancer. She has given 42 State and 33 national-level performances. She has received a national award.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ F ☐

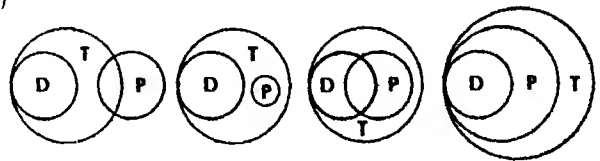
ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (c) All the others are natural formations.
2. (d) All the others are natural emotions/feelings.
3. (b) It is the only synthetic item among the natural ones.
4. (e) All the others are formed with a common definite purpose.
5. (i) It is the only disciplined group.
6. (a) All the others are forms of showing dissatisfaction.
7. (c) All the others are chessmen.
8. (b) It is the only serious performance among the light ones.
9. (e) All the others are birds.
10. (c) All the others are parts of bicycle
11. (c)
12. (b)
13. (b)
14. (d)
15. (a)
16. (a)
17. (c)
18. (a)
19. (d)
20. (b)
21. (b)
22. (a)
23. (c) In other words all the letters except one are from the lead word. Here they are two E and C.
24. (b) In this one all the letters are borrowed from the lead word; in others there is one stranger.
25. (d) It is opposite of the question above (24th).
26. (d) In all the other letters from the lead word are in the same order.
27. (b)
28. (d)
29. (d)
30. (d)
31. (a)

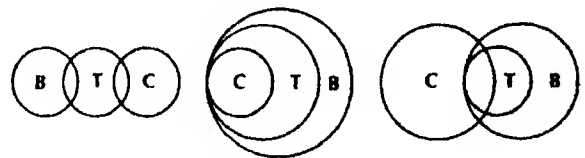
32. (e)
33. (c)
34. (a)
35. (d)
36. (e)
37. (i)
38. (b)
39. (c)
40. (e)
41. (a)
42. (e)
43. (a)
44. (b)

Questions of this type are best answered by drawing diagrams of all the possible situations.

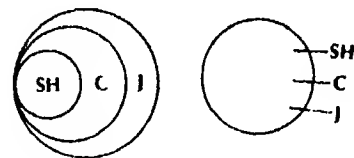
45. (d)



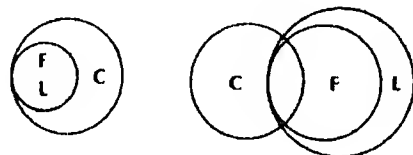
46. (d)



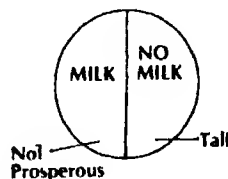
47. (b)



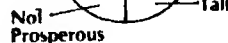
48. (c)



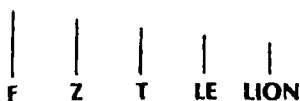
49. (a)



50. (b)



51. (c)



52. (b)

53. (c)

58. (e)

63. C

68. A

54. (a)

59. (e)

64. B

69. A

55. (d)

60. (c)

65. E

70. C

56. (a)

61. (b)

66. B

71. E

57. (d)

62. (a)

67. D

72. D

Improve Your Word Power

- 1 **addle** (a) confuse (b) strike (c) stop (d) soar
- 2 **bevy**: (a) group (b) lonely (c) tired (d) excellent
- 3 **churlish**: (a) proud (b) modest (c) crazy (d) discourteous
- 4 **daft**: (a) intelligent (b) foolish (c) skilful (d) smart
- 5 **epitome**: (a) last (b) perfection (c) danger (d) challenge
- 6 **flinch**: (a) attack (b) offend (c) defend (d) shy
- 7 **gambol** (a) rest (b) gamble (c) leap (d) return
- 8 **hodge-podge (hotch-potch)**: (a) accident (b) incident (c) mixture (d) genuine
- 9 **ingress**: (a) impression (b) expression (c) influx (d) departure
- 10 **jockey** (v): (a) suffer (b) utter (c) describe (d) cheat

- 11 **languor**: (a) agitation (b) weariness (c) irritation (d) excitement
- 12 **modicum**: (a) little (b) modern (c) mute (d) active
- 13 **numinous**: (a) dark (b) bright (c) awful (d) dull
- 14 **overt**: (a) secretive (b) openly (c) ugly (d) sad
- 15 **plump** (v): (a) nominate (b) delegate (c) reject (d) choose
- 16 **quarantine**: (a) problem (b) strange (c) detention (d) quotation
- 17 **snowball**: (a) slow-down (b) accelerate (c) compete (d) complete
- 18 **vet** (v): (a) examine (b) ignore (c) invite (d) explain
- 19 **waft**: (a) drown (b) sink (c) float (d) climb
- 20 **zany**: (a) fashionable (b) funny (c) fearful (d) eccentric

ANSWERS

- 1 **addle**: (a) confuse muddle
—The policy of economic liberalisation seems to have *addled* the wits of many
- 2 **bevy**: (a) group, flock
—A *bevy* of eminent persons from different walks of life had assembled to watch the inaugural ceremony
- 3 **churlish**: (d) discourteous, bad-mannered
—It seems *churlish* to refuse such a generous offer made by the winning party/side
- 4 **daft**: (b) foolish, silly
—It was quite *daft* on their part to discuss their strategy with their sworn enemy
- 5 **epitome**: (b) perfection, synopsis, brief
—Gandhiji was an *epitome* of kindness, truth and non-violence
- 6 **flinch**: (d) shy, recoil, avoid thinking
—We shall never *flinch* from the task of telling the people the whole truth
- 7 **gambol**: (c) leap, play, jump, skip
—In the evening one finds children *gambolling* about in the park
- 8 **hodge-podge (hotch-potch)**: (c) mixture, confusion, jumble
—His essay was a *hodge-podge (hotch potch)* of other people's ideas
- 9 **ingress**: (c) influx, infiltration, entry
—The *ingress* of refugees into the sensitive north-east of India, cannot but aggravate the problems already bedeviling that region.
- 10 **jockey** (v): (d) cheat, trick, manoeuvre
—In an atmosphere of competitive politics, everyone is trying to *jockey* his opponent out of his position in the set-up

- 11 **languor**: (b) weariness, tiredness, laziness
—It was indeed a delightful evening when music produced by the maestro induced a pleasing *languor* among the music lovers
- 12 **modicum**: (a) little, bit, moderate
—Anyone with a *modicum* of intelligence would have realised that the same old gimmicks were being tried on the people
- 13 **numinous**: (c) awful, divine
—Strange and *numinous* are the ways of God and we always fail to comprehend them
- 14 **overt**: (b) openly, publicly, not secret/hidden
—It is difficult to mend matters with a neighbour who is always keen to show *overt* hostility
- 15 **plump** (v): (d) choose/vote
—The selection committee *plumped* for the most experienced and suitable candidate for the post
- 16 **quarantine**: (c) confinement, detention
—The suspect was freed from *quarantine* after his innocence was established/proved
- 17 **snowball**: (b) accelerate, pick up speed
—The whispering campaign against fresh curbs on the press, snowballed into an agitation within no time
- 18 **vet** (v): (a) examine.
—During their rule in India, the British government used to *vet* all staff for links with extremist groups before being employed.
- 19 **waft**: (c) float, wave
—The soft strains of the Veena *wafted* through a packed auditorium
- 20 **zany**: (d) eccentric
—The matrimonial pages are becoming breezier and *zanner* than the comic strips

Problems of Working Women

THE gathering of fuel, carrying of drinking water from long distances, keeping the hearth burning and the home warm; all these routine but essential requirements of a family, whether big or small, have rendered a woman's role not only rigorous but also highly repetitive. And yet these jarring jobs, performed with clock-like regularity and meticulous care and consideration for the family, find no special mention in any chronicle nor in any wage/attendance register because 'working from cradle to grave' is considered to be 'love's labour', for which a woman is neither entitled to any wages nor any recognition.

Men can afford to be passive and parasitical at times but women with their wholesome work, keep the clock of family-life ticking and turning from dawn to dusk. Barring a few exceptions, here and there, the socio-economic situation remains as hard and harsh as it was in the past. And when sociologists and feminists talk of the problems of 'working women', they do so out of their concern for women working in organised as well as unorganised sectors of a country's socio-economic life, nearly forgetting the harrowing conditions of those millions and millions who spend the entire span of their lives in giving shape to the choking chores of family-life.

From the ancient-women to the modern ones, the problems that keep pressing them are hydra-headed, always putting pressures on their physical stamina and emotional make-up. How they cope with the daily stresses and strains, at home and out-side (if they are working women in the present-day connotation) is truly remarkable and a feat to

watch and wonder

Needless to reiterate that human life has never remained static and stagnant. With the spread of education and information, and ever-expanding frontiers of public as well as private sectors, job opportunities in all their contours and colours have been increasing with the result that both men and women have come out of the safe and secure sanctuary of their homes and given a new twist and turn to the spectrum of what we now call the 'problems and prospects' of post-independent era. The changes in life patterns, human relations, attitudes and attributes have been so momentous and mercurial that with every passing moment are coming face to face with new challenges and chagrins, the intensity of which is almost nerve-breaking, specially for working-women, who carry the double burden of running 'a home' along with supplementing the family income.

"The metamorphosis from the traditional to the progressive has been effected in four phases which combines the liberal feminism of the West and the nationalist feminism of the Third World." (Dr S.L. Reyes, Executive Director, Congressional Research and Training Service, Philippines). The four stages are the home arts phase for good wives and mothers; career phase where despite equal access to education, vocational courses prevail; social activism and militancy phase, when gender issues retreat temporarily for a joint struggle against political repression; and the feminist phase which takes place when successful political struggle is not accompanied by women's emancipation. Prejudices and pride not-

withstanding, Indian women do not suffer any dubious gender discrimination as far as their hunt for job-avenues, selection, posting and promotion are concerned. Modern society has necessitated the realisation among men that they have to take a fresh look at their own understanding of their roles. Developments in technology and in the field of communications have brought women to the forefront in society and have forced men to change.

In the last 15 to 20 years, there has been a big change in the women. They are much more independent now. With more and more women working these days, men can either get aggressive about it or they can become more sensitive to the whole issue. According to a survey recently done on the "role, initiative and problems" connected with women in the corporate sector, it has been found that women on the way up the corporate ladder discover along the way that they must be twice as good as their male colleagues to get to the top. But whereas the latter don't have to pay a heavy price for being successful, the psychological and emotional price that women pay is excessive. For the systems that they acquiesce to when they step on the ladder are male-made and male-oriented. Indeed, the corporate challenge to women has been: "Prove you are men if you want to be accepted as equal partners in our enterprises." Thus women have broken themselves in two to rise to the challenge, functioning in the work-place as unattached individuals exclusively committed to their jobs and careers while continuing to shoulder a major share of the workload at home, particularity of child rearing.

Employment opportunities to women have not only helped in supplementing their family earnings, which is so imperative in the all-pervasive 'Consumer Culture' of today, but also added new confidence and feathers to their status and stature, economic independence and also to the assertion of their individuality and identity as distinct human beings. But to claim and clamour that it is all roses on the road that working women tread and traverse is to deny the existence of problems and traumas that they have to encounter in their day-to-day life. Finding suitable and affordable accommodation for 'single working women' where they can feel their honour is safe and secure is a problem they may not have visualised before going in for a job outside the limits of their towns. The availability of accommodation in 'Working Women Hostels' in some select cities is too inadequate to meet the ever growing needs of such women.

In the case of couples, both employed, their problem is of a different type. They have to leave their children either to the custody of their aged parents or to the care of maid-servants. Indulgence shown by the former to the kids or indifference practised by the latter on impressionable minds can produce disastrous results, both for the parents as well as for their young children. In many cases, children feel the pinch of 'nagging neglect' by their parents, who return homes from their places of work, quite tired and exhausted. There is always the possibility of such neglected children going astray and becoming truants or delinquents.

If prospects for a better life are enhanced, when women start earning independently, there are moments of anxiety and tension too that they have to go through quite often. Getting into the over-crowded buses/suburban trains for working-women sends chill down their spines and for them this business of jostling or tossing in the air becomes a nightmarish experience. Some places

are notorious for being indecent and indiscreet towards women-commuters while some towns are over-generous and overtly polite towards females as far as travelling for jobs is concerned.

One may not entirely agree with the aggressive posture of feminists when they harangue on the issue of 'women liberation' but we cannot ignore the fact that working-women are not always have been subjected to emotional harassment, silly sneers and rabid remarks and unbecoming advances by their male colleagues and others..

About the plight of working-women in the un-organised sectors, like working on roads/bridges, buildings, brick-kilns, whether under a contractor or independently along with their men-folk, the less said the better. The inhuman and inhospitable conditions under the scorching sun and incessant rains, where they have to work like beasts of burden, are truly heart-rending. Deprived of any roof over their heads, schools/creches for their children, medical and sanitary facilities, to name a few only, forces them to add a few more slums to the already stinking scenario around their places of work. "Neither the pull factors which draw women for employment

into the non-agricultural sectors of the economy nor the push factors that facilitate their release from the precincts of the house-hold are adequately present in the Indian context." (International Labour Organisation).

In the opinion of WIPS (women in public sector), 'the aptitude, intelligence, education and skills of women have not been used and this is a great economic waste for the nation. Even from the monetary point of view the female labour force constitutes an important reservoir of talent which is necessary for companies to use to remain competitive in the business world ' There is a shift in the focus from traditional role of women to that of development of women as the most important human resource. In keeping with this shift in focus, the policies of the government have been geared towards women both as the beneficiary target as well as the facilitating medium in programmes.

Across cultures—both elite and egalitarian—women have to struggle hard to assert themselves. They must display greater degree of patience, understanding and toughness in order to gain acceptance in the public mind.

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Travelling is Education

RELIGION edifies human morals; literature delineates human character in its myriad manifestations; travelling educates human mind and frees it from the cob-web of ignorance, prejudices and puerile proclivities. What books, sermons and speeches fail to achieve, travelling does, in a slow but sure manner, as is evident from the manifold changes that have come about where travelling by rail, road, sea or air has taken men and women comprising all castes and cultures that constitute one 'human family'. Through the written/spoken word, one may form the contours of human nature in a frame that may prove quite different and definite when we happen to see the living beings next to us.

'Seeing is believing' was not said for nothing. It carries a deep and developing message, the significance of which dawns on us when we are found rubbing shoulders with strangers during the course of journey both within and outside the national frontiers of a country. Contact with other human beings renders us more human and humane.

There is no better way of learning the live lessons of life than meeting the people face to face through travelling. No doubt many a time travel becomes a travail and a trial but still there is pleasure in pain. In a country like India, people have to suffer the sights of weary passengers pouring out like garbage; dusty, dirty, disgruntled and disillusioned, making the best of a bad bargain and thus teaching the luckier ones that 'all is well that ends well'. There is no denying the fact that travelling unravels the spectrum of life, in all its intensity and vitality. It unfolds before our very eyes the cycle of Time—Past, Present and Future. In the same vein, travelling enables us

to inter-act with knowledgeable people and master-minds working in libraries, and laboratories. It is again travelling that takes us to the places where foundations of future plans and projects are firmly laid, not only for the present generation but also for the future ones. For the travellers going round the world for the sake of fun and frolic there is a lot to learn if they do not confine themselves to those affluent, orderly countries. As travellers over the centuries have found, the Indian sub-continent offers more in the way of variety of life and diversity of its colourful confluence of different religions, ethnic groups and cultural cohorts.

In the words of Mark Twain, "there is a lot to learn and inform oneself if travellers/tourists, both from India and abroad, make it a point to see India, the land of dreams and romance, of fabulous wealth and fabulous poverty, of splendour and rags, of palaces and hovels, of genic and giants...the country of a hundred nations and a hundred tongues, of a thousand religions and two million gods, cradle of human race, birthplace of human speech, mother of history, grandmother of legend, great-grandmother of tradition, whose yesteryears bear date with the mouldering antiquities of the rest of the nations—the one sole country under the sun which is endowed with an imperishable interest for lettered and ignorant wise and fool, rich and poor, the one land that all men desire to see....."

With the different modes of transport at almost everybody's reach, travelling as a source of joy and thrill, business and inter-action, information and instruction, education and eradication of untouchability, is no longer a myth or mystery but very much a reality. Who

can deny the fact that the curse of untouchability, that had been the bane of Indian life for so long, started getting short shrift when people, irrespective of caste, colour and creed, began to travel and as a result started sharing a common compartment/berth without any fuss or fury. As travelling became more and more a matter of enhancing one's business prospects/job opportunities and family/social contacts, the ghost of untouchability kept going down deeper and deeper into the grave. What social reformers and preachers failed to put across the people's minds, travelling has done it to everybody's surprise and satisfaction. Travelling has proved to be a great leveller of mental disparities.

But for the urge for travelling to unknown frontiers we would not have known of America. The route to India would never have been discovered. The world wouldn't have progressed to where it is today. The trip to moon and the resultant space research spin-offs have been instrumental in the development of hi-tech equipments being used in our day-to-day lives.

Not a very long time ago, travelling as an adventure or necessity, used to be once 'in a life-time span' affair. But now it has become an integral part of our socio-economic life. Not only does it encourage and instil in us the forces that broaden our outlook but also enlarges the frontiers of our mental horizons. Travelling delivers hard knocks and kicks to the dark/devilish developments that breed in the name of parochialism/chauvinism. If by any chance, travelling were to stop, life would lose its purpose and passion and human beings would turn, more or less, like 'a frog in the well or a dog in the manger'.

MODEL PARAGRAPHS

"How short is life! how frail is human trust!"

—John Gay

The world is a stage where human life struggles and straggles to make its mark between the devil (shortness of existence) and the deep sea (frailty of human trust). The demands of time and tide are so pressing on human existence that the moments of introspection are rare and rueful. The span of life that each human being is granted is too brief to allow him to show his true worth and wit. Similarly the nature of human trust is anything but strong and stable. With every blitz and bluff, it goes off the track. Whether the trust is in God, in self or in friendship, the fact of life is that we can change the dusty and dubious course of life only with its vigour and veracity. But unfortunately the forces around us are so inimical and ironic that faith evaporates like a drop of water on sand when our plans go awry and our proposals/purposes get bogged down at the hands of the unscrupulous and the uncouth. Since most of us live life like puppets, the strings of which are in the hands of the invisible puppeteer, we seldom realise the futility of our bragging and the severity of situation around.

"Never resist temptation: prove all things: hold fast that which is good."

—Bernard Shaw

Life is a judicious pursuit of self-enjoyment coupled with self-restraint. As human beings armed with natural instincts and intuitions, desires and demands, it is self-delusion to resist temptations, worldly whims and fancies. The wise is he who tries and tastes the things offered and having done so, holds fast that virtue/possession which is likely to stand by him in times of his physical as well as moral crisis. The journey of life is not undertaken on mere heresy or

rumour. It has to be carried on with curiosity and circumspection. Without trial, we cannot form any positive opinion for/against any subject that affects our life and its contours. What is to be retained/discarded, should be decided not by others but by the self, after an in-depth enquiry lest we are caught on the wrong foot. One man's sugar may be another man's poison and vice-versa. The best advice is the one that is acquired by carefully sifting grain from chaff, gold from garish glitter, and wisdom from verbosity. Experience is our best teacher but no new experience is ever offered to us on a platter, however naive and novice we may be.

"All spirits are enslaved that serve things evil."

—Shelley

Human conscience, though the custodian and care-taker of all human actions and conceptions (ideas/thoughts) seldom fails to obey the dictates that enhance self-promotion and prosperity. Man, by nature, falls for easy options and prefers to adopt means, quite often dubious and doubtful, to achieve his heart's aspirations. Needless to affirm that evil is more tempting and lustful and therefore irresistible in its glamorous get-up and captivating colours. It takes no time and effort to mortgage one's soul in return for worldly powers. The devil in us knows human weakness for quick results and exploits the frailty of our commitment and conviction to the hilt. The one who is ever eager to quench his greed for gold (worldly possessions) is a slave of the evil forces that keep waiting in the wings to possess him so that he plays a second fiddle to the devil and his designs. Having entered into a state of bondage, the enslaved person reduces himself to a mere puppet. Much of the human suffering that we notice around is

caused by such spirits as have readily submitted and surrendered themselves to the magical/material but illusory hold of the things evil in content and concept. Those who resist and rebuff the enemy within carry the day but others who fall flat before the dazzle of devilish desires and wayward wishes.

"Cynicism is humour in ill-health."

—H.G. Wells

No doubt, caustic criticism reflects poorly human predilections and perceptions. Such distortion and debasement of human disposition displays more of ill-health and obdurate obsession than the expression of so-called wit and wisdom of the cynic. Finding holes where none exists and hammering nails into a well-knit plot for the fun of doing so, implies utter contempt for what he sees, hears and contemplates around him. Negative forces, when combined and collated in human mind and imagination, may offer sadistic pleasure for a while but like slow poisoning, they demean and devour our creative faculties and render us mental cripples and emotional wrecks. To constantly air the flames of cynicism tantamounts to riding the crest of drug-inspired wings of intellectual pretensions, the end of which is highly tormenting and tortuous. The cynic has none to admire and no friend to fall back upon in dire need. To a sick mind, the hurling of verbal arrows of invectives and insinuations may be cheerful but what comes off in the long run is nothing but kicks and knocks for the cynic and his odious outbursts. Unfortunately cynicism does not allow the cynic to see anything bright and blithe in the scenario that prevails around him because the cynic becomes so much a victim of his mental malaise that his malady becomes his incurable incarceration.

China's Bang & Nuclear Power-play

China's 1,000 kiloton underground nuclear explosion has focussed attention on the unpublicised capacity of the Eastern giant. It has also brought out Beijing's hypocrisy in respect of nuclear intentions. China has in fact served notice on the wide world, especially India, that it must be taken note of as a big power. The proposition for discussion is, "China is adopting hypocritical postures and poses a subtle threat to peace-loving nations of South-East Asia."

Mr A Sir, on May 19 this year China conducted a massive one-megaton underground nuclear explosion at Lop Nor. Earlier China had announced its decision to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), thus falling in line with the wishes of the USA and other countries of the West. This, along with the similar gesture made by France, pleased the West and enhanced hopes of a nuclear menace-free world in the near future. China's repeated high-power nuclear testing points to its growing ambition to become an atomic giant and develop top-level capacity to match the might of the most influential country in the world—the U.S.A. Beijing's intentions, it is claimed, are wholly peaceful. But theory and make-believe have to be distinguished from stark facts and reality. The real intention of the Communist giant seems to be to make all countries of the East, including India, realise that they have to live under the shadow of China's nuclear power. This capacity has

been confirmed time and again. Like the USA, China has also held several nuclear explosions in recent years, though the latest one is described as a massive one—the biggest to date. US sources have stated that the test was of a war-head for a new inter-continental ballistic missile. The estimated size of the blast was anywhere between 7,00,000 and 1.8 million tons of TNT. Experts state, however, that since the device was exploded at Lop Nor at a depth of about 1,000 metres, an accurate measurement of the blast was not possible. Even though the explosion was underground, it is believed by scientists that radio-active gases emanating from it will go into the atmosphere. The radiation is expected to spread to areas outside China's borders. US officials disclosed on May 23 that China appears to be making preparations for a second underground nuclear test equal to the one it set off on May 19. There is certainly a lesson to be drawn from the series of Chinese nuclear explosions—after the virtual disappearance of the vast Soviet empire from the global scenario, China would not like to allow the USA to emerge as the world's sole and supreme power which no other country would be able to challenge. Inscrutable China is indulging in hypocrisy and is also giving a warning that must be heeded. It wishes to become a world power, not a regional one.

Mr B My predecessor Mr A's contentions seem to be impressive,

but I submit that he has bypassed certain facts which are of great relevance. As is well known, the signatories to the NPT have not made any commitment about holding nuclear tests. In fact, the US—the chief exponent of nuclear non-proliferation—is the biggest hypocrite in this regard (and also in many other respects). It wishes to retain full freedom to conduct any number of nuclear tests but wants to prevent other countries from carrying on such experiments.

American experts themselves have conceded that the country has conducted 900 underground nuclear tests more than China has; of these, 31 were of greater force than China's latest Lop Nor blast. What the world is witnessing is a nuclear power-play—a very dangerous one. A leading U.S. commentator has said that his country's deep regard over China's action is understandable since it marks nothing more than the status quo. Both these Powers have been conducting nuclear tests, with the US leading the world in this regard. Mr Dunbar Lockwood, an expert of the Arms Control Association, is reported to have said a few days ago: "It is ironic that the United States criticises other countries for testing nuclear devices. The administration under Mr Ronald Reagan and Mr George Bush has been one of the major impediments to progress towards a comprehensive test ban. In my view, it is wrong to accuse China of hypocrisy; that country has only carried out a nuclear experiment as part of its atomic programme and it

is not more guilty than the US in this arena. How can the world blame China for pursuing its programme? The Lop Nor test on May 19 does not violate any Beijing commitment or promise. If the other nuclear powers and signatories to the NPT are free to conduct nuclear tests of any type (except in the atmosphere), why can't China? And if they are not accused of hypocrisy, why should China be held guilty? The West should adopt an even-handed approach on the nuclear issue. This is precisely what Washington is not doing. Maybe the US wishes to provide further evidence of its hostility towards India. But the fact is that the Lop Nor test poses a threat; it is a sharp reminder and an indirect warning that the countries of South-East Asia, including India, would have to comply sooner or later with China's wishes. China is out to establish that it is the supreme power of the East just as the US is the supreme power of the West.

Mr C Sir, I feel that my predecessor, Mr B, has unintentionally provided me with a useful, timely cue. Are not the scores of missiles at China's disposal aimed at Indian targets? It is true that China has shown much restraint after the 1962 invasion of India. After some sabre rattling, China also became quiet in respect of Sikkim which at one time, it claimed, was part of Chinese territory on the basis of past maps. China also did not open a second front during the India-Pakistan war in 1971. But China is a subtle and very clever strategist. While professing friendship with India during the various rounds of talks on the border and other issues, it has been a close military ally of Pakistan. This military relationship undoubtedly poses a threat to India and enhances tensions. The political situation in Pakistan has undergone a sea-change in recent months, but China

has not openly admitted that Islamabad no longer occupies a key position in the international scenario. An even more significant occurrence is that China conducted the Lop Nor nuclear test during Indian President R. Venkataraman's goodwill visit to that country. Surely, it could not be a mere coincidence. The test could have been postponed by a few days. It may be recalled that in 1979 China invaded Vietnam (with which India has throughout maintained cordial relations) during the visit of Mr A.B. Vajpayee when the latter was India's Foreign Minister of the Janata regime. In protest, Mr Vajpayee curtailed his visit and returned home. It is clear that China manages its actions so as to drive a specific lesson home to a certain country at a time of its choosing. It is also possible that China wanted to make India realise that its friendship and cooperation should be ensured, especially at a time when the US relations with New Delhi are developing strains. The Soviet Union is out of the show, and the USA is turning hostile; so China is the only big power that can come to India's rescue in difficult situations. Unfortunately, at present India is friendless in the world; all talk of self-reliance is pointless in the context of the harsh ground realities. Thus it is clear that China has its own way of doing things—sweet talk on the one hand and implicit threats on the other.

Mr D I am afraid my predecessor has been blowing hot and cold at the same time. China has given India a useful tip. It may be recalled that India has opposed Mr Nawaz Sharif's plan for a five-power regional conference on the nuclear issue in South Asia. India has contended that the nuclear problem should be tackled on a bilateral basis. The US seems determined to press the regional conference proposal, which in fact is

initially its own idea. China was supposed to be one of the five powers which would discuss the issue. It has extended broad support to the proposal, while New Delhi has opposed it. Now India can contend (in addition to giving other arguments) that China has virtually forfeited its right to become an active participant in the nuclear non-proliferation talks because of its massive and endless nuclear tests. How can a country which continues to conduct nuclear tests—and fairly strong ones too—claim to be actively interested in checking nuclear non-proliferation? Actually, neither the USA nor China has any moral right to give advice to India not to go nuclear. They are going all out to become more and more powerful from the nuclear standpoint and are conducting one atomic experiment after another. Amidst all the loud talk, India alone stands out. It has the requisite nuclear capacity (as was demonstrated by the Pokharan test in 1974) but it is the one country that has not pursued any nuclear weapon programme and has not held any other test since then. I would like to draw the attention of this House to the fact that the US has gone all out to persuade Russia not to supply the rocket technology to India (the latest reports are that Russia may cancel its deal with India for the purpose). If France (which is also being pressed by the USA not to supply such technology to India) also acts on Washington's advice and declines to launch INSAT-2 satellite, India's space programme would be upset. This country's isolation and helplessness would then become more apparent than ever before. Consequently, India might have to strike a commercial deal with Beijing which might then press New Delhi not to pursue the Sino-Indian border issue and accept the status quo. So there are circles within circles and many pitfalls only some of which are visible.

Waste no Time in Regrets—Start Again!

A man can still go a long way when he is tired. Don't give up.

—Herbert Casson.

Life—a battle

LIFE is a field of battle, and not a bed of roses. Let us face it. It is a fight from start to finish—a struggle for survival from the womb to the tomb. Man is doomed to a life of contradictory forces—love and hate, living and dying, happiness and unhappiness, pain and pleasure, difficulty and ease. Struggle is a constant element in human life.

Struggle is the hall-mark of being alive. Struggle in this context may be defined as the act of wrestling with difficulties, trials and tribulations, so as to come out of them victoriously.

It is not all Beer and Skittles

LIFE is not all smooth-sailing, it proceeds by fits and starts. Periods when things go well alternate with slow periods when progress appears almost at a standstill.

You can observe the operation of this great rule in your own life. Some weeks all goes well, things work out as you planned, progress is rapid, your morale is high and enthusiasm aglow.

Then you run into a sluggish phase. Obstacles crop up; delays occur; progress comes to a halt. Your enthusiasm wanes. Your morale sags. You say, "This is not, after all, my cup of tea."

You must recognise that these bad patches are part of the natural order. They occur to every one and in all endeavours. Eventually success comes to the person who keeps on regardless of setbacks, working like blazes and striving whole-heartedly just the same during the time when

things look dim and he can see little result for his efforts.

Out of sight events are slowly shaping themselves in these bad times. Suddenly the work done without result leads to a breakthrough and another fine period of progress and manifest achievement ensues. Never forget that life is not all beer and skittles (fun and games).

For successful achievement and fulfilment, a single objective must be chosen and attained over a period of time. It must not be given up the moment a snag arises, or the moment you learn of other possible and attractive goals or objectives. Keep your attention focussed on the bull's eye till you attain your target.

Change is a fundamental law of nature. Human personality grows or shrinks with the passage of time. Some people become wiser, maturer and more responsible as the years pass, but some waste their talents and powers. This happens because most young men and women fail to understand the principle of change in everyday life. A closer study will reveal that this principle has a tremendous impact on success and failure. Simply put, it implies: neither success nor failure is permanent.

Driven by several compulsions, social, economic or environmental, countless youths let the destructive stream of negative thoughts flow through their mind. Gradually, they fall in love with their own defeatism and lose the courage to step out of their shadows.

They feverishly hold on to their 'prized' defeatism when it would be much better to let the dead past go, and start again the process of reconstruction of their shattered thinking.

Unless they do it, they will go on wasting their emotional and nervous energy in a futile struggle to hug the defeats of the past. Their problems keep on baffling them. They will go on deluding themselves with the misleading notion that it is brave to hold on. Perhaps it is. But will it not be more sensible to switchover and start again? It is important to make a beginning. It is far more important to make a re-beginning.

The picture of a person fighting against heavy odds or throwing a challenge to destiny may be awe-inspiring. But our struggle should be result-oriented. If it is not showing results, we must revise our thinking, and then our strategy.

Life is more important than certain concepts we cherish. Despite setbacks and disappointments, there is always a chance. But if we stubbornly exhaust our energy in wild goose chases and hug illusions, we spoil our chances of staging a come-back.

Surely, it should be unwise to stick on when every bit of evidence shows we should shift and start all over again. We should not give up, if we have a reasonable chance of success. But we should not hold on simply because withdrawal will hurt our pride. It is better to have a clean break with the past and start life afresh when the conditions are favourable.

In sum, it is better and braver to admit defeat temporarily, and launch efforts when the conditions are favourable. The wise General knows when to retreat as part of the military strategy. He does not let his pride stand in his way. The evacuation at Dunkirk was a significant act of withdrawing to fight another day and ultimately win.

This principle applies equally

well to other spheres of life. One may have to give up the worries of an unrewarding career, a hopeless love affair and a stubborn course only to start life where success is waiting in the wings. The temporary withdrawal injects a new direction, a new enthusiasm, a new meaning in life. A new awareness of one's capabilities dawns.

Andre Maurois admires Americans with single-track minds, "their tenacity and their obsession are sometimes boring, but they succeed, by repeated attacks in demolishing the obstacles that hinder their progress." He further advises, *age quod agis* (do what you are doing i.e., with all your powers) Put your whole heart into it. Strive with both your body and your mind towards the goal. When it has been reached, you may retrace your steps, explore the path that cuts across your own, and feast your eyes upon the view. But until the task is done, no exploring or loitering.

Take a firm decision even if it is an unpleasant one, and then stick to it. Hasty action is to be avoided, but once a decision is taken, it has to be carried through. Put in full effort for achieving your newly acquired goal. Make no compromises. Adopt no half measures. Waste no time in regrets.

Winning attitude: Cultivate a winning attitude. Expect to be successful. Concentrate your thoughts on the reasons why you will succeed, not on possible failure.

George Bernard Shaw has said: "He who flees from the battle, lives to fight, another day." So it is with problems only to re-assemble our resources of thought and energy; to fight again.

Where do you begin your battle? You have to learn to declare war on your tendency to hug illusions. The battle has to be won in the battlefield of your mind. Your mind is a battlefield. And if you win, you will experience a new one emerging from the debris of the dead thoughts.

You are the cluster of your attitudes. The winning attitude leads you to talk, think, and act for success.

You can soon come to take it for granted that what you start you will finish. Every successful action you perform leaves a trace on your mind that makes it easier to be more successful next. "Nothing succeeds like success", is a true proverb. It means that it is not easy to achieve success, but once you have achieved it, the way is open to even greater success. For example, a novelist may write nine books and yet remain comparatively unknown. Then the tenth book becomes a best-seller, which not only ensures success for any further books that he may write but also creates a demand for the first nine.

Will Power: "Victory is a thing of the will." Particularly at the outset of any venture, will-power is needed to help you keep at it until the habit of persistence is formed. According to Gordon Byron, will-power depends on the following five factors:

1. Keep your health in good shape by living sensibly.
2. Use auto-suggestion to train your mind and will as you want them to be.
3. Develop the habit of accomplishing small things successfully.
4. Carry out instantly and without second thoughts the little chores of the day. The most useful and universal of these is getting up in the morning the moment you should. The habit of concentrating one's thoughts on the building of plans for the attainment of a definite purpose leads to tenacity.

Intense Desire: Build up an intense desire to attain your goal. It is comparatively easy to acquire. Pursue the object with a burning desire.

Self reliance: Believe in your ability to carry through your plans, organising them properly into a timetable or action programme. A definite plan, expressed in terms of continuous action, will ring the bell.

When you face uncertain situations and suffer from indecision, you must ponder and analyse the situation. Think it over. Do not live under illusions.

Knowledge: Acquire knowledge of the matters that will help you in

the attainment of your goal. Base your plans on knowledge, not guesswork. Put your experience and observation to good use.

Cooperation: Develop harmonious cooperation with others. Napoleon III recommends a friendly alliance with one or more persons who will encourage you to pursue your plans with full vigour.

Negativism: Negativism is lethal to success in any enterprise. Keep your mind tightly closed against all negative and discouraging influences, including negative suggestions of relatives, friends and acquaintances.

Declare war on your negative feelings, your failure mechanism. Resolve that the basic aim of the re-orientation of your life is the destruction of poisonous, destructive thinking. You will then find peace, happiness and success.

Summing Up

To be successful—

1. Get a clear vision or picture of exactly what you want to do or to accomplish in life.
2. Believe that you can and will succeed in doing it.
3. Start doing it and keep at it.
4. Do not go about chanting tales of your failures and what you might have been. It is a pernicious habit of getting sympathy from others and using it as an emotional crutch. It weakens your moral fibre. Throw away this crutch.

Have a clearly defined objective—a specific goal to work towards a bull's eye to shoot at. Know what you want and make a bee-line for it. Having set a goal, believe firmly, deeply, unflinchingly that you will attain it. You have your objective; you have built your dream castle in the clouds. You firmly believe that you will realise it. Start right now! Keep on working at it and you will work a miracle as surely as day follows night.

Tale-piece

If you expect to reach a desirable destination make a start—right here and now, and do not be deterred by discouraging comments from those who lack enterprise and vision.

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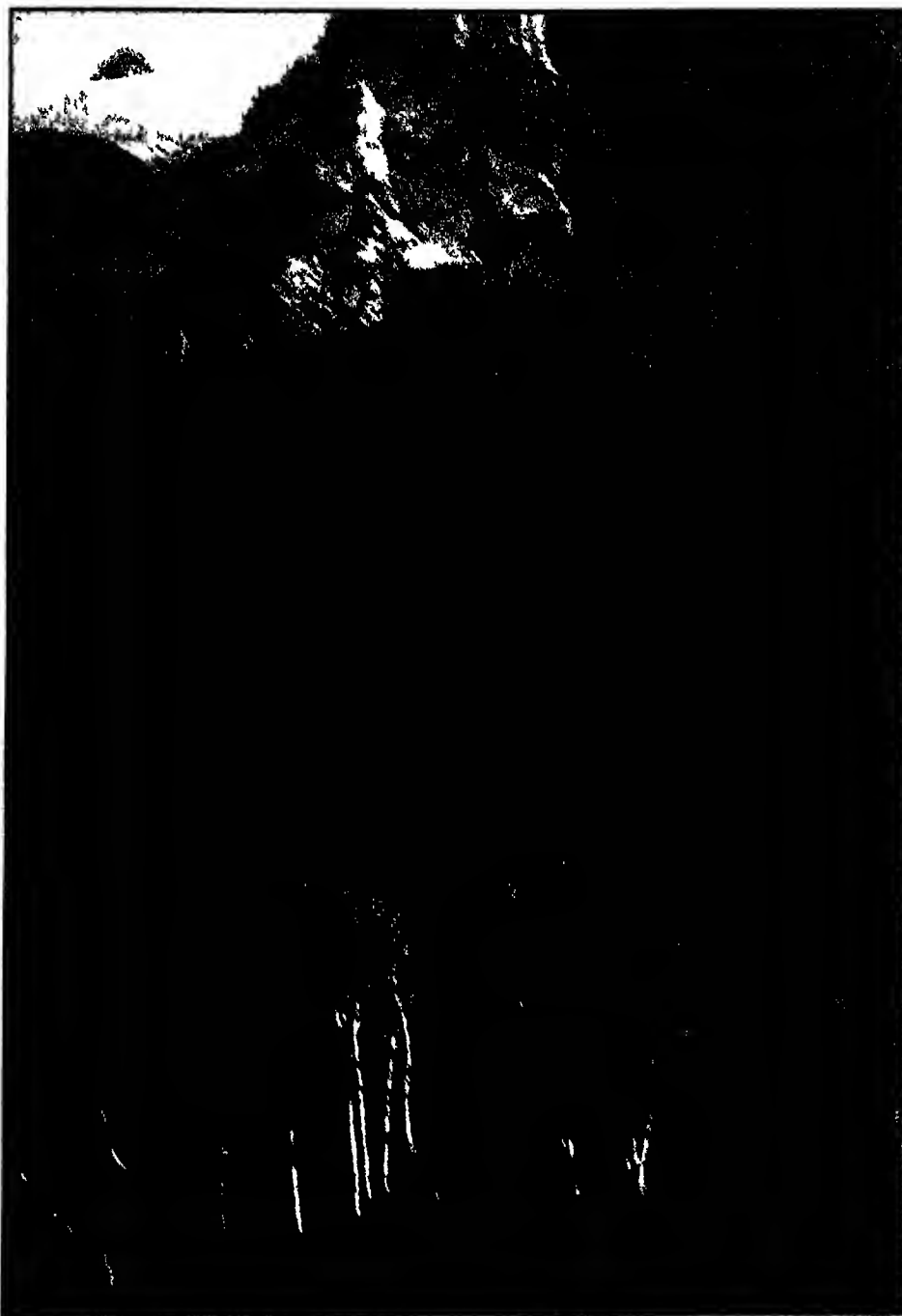
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The Competition MASTER

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O.P. KHANNA

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Dear Reader,

OUR 34TH YEAR

With this issue the C.M. enters the 34th year of publication. We can look back on our performance during the past three decades and more with a sense of pride and satisfaction. We have left no stone unturned in fulfilling the promise and commitment to serve the interests of our patrons and provide them the material they need for preparing themselves for various competitive examinations. The large number of appreciative letters we receive every month are proof of this fact.

But we do not intend to rest on our oars. On the contrary, we would strive continuously to provide even more useful information and increase the features wherever possible. To enable us to achieve our aim we would greatly appreciate comments and suggestions from our numerous readers. We would like to know what other topics they would like us to cover. Besides, we would like very much to have their views about the existing articles and features in this magazine. Of course there are the limitations of space.

In respect of the quality and scope of the contents, layout and printing the C.M., we can legitimately claim, is far ahead of other magazines of this type.

We thank all our patrons and wish them the very best in life.

Yours sincerely,

S. P. Khanna

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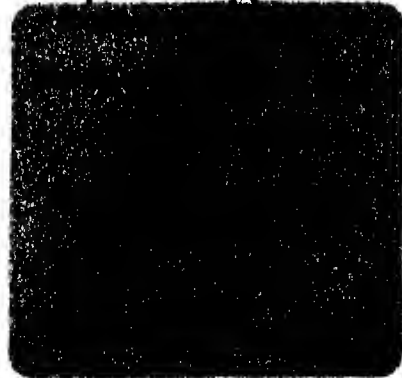
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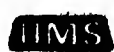
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READERS' FORUM

CRISIS IN KABUL

Your editorial "Fragile Peace in Kabul" deserves commendation. Peace implies loving and co-operative interaction and co-ordination among the people. There is no peace in Kabul at all; this is the result of both political and guerrilla activities.

Ever-lasting peace cannot be established in that particular Islamic capital because there is no mutual understanding among the leaders or the commanders who are the godfathers of the denizens.

The only way to solve this disconcerting problem is to ensure mutual understanding among the leaders and full co-operation of the people.

Muzaffarpur

Zohair Imam

The recent change in Kabul presents a frightening spectre to India. This country is now a vulnerable island within the Islamic ocean the swirlings of which may cause a catastrophe.

Indian Muslims enjoy full rights at par with other Indians. Still the Muslim countries allege alienation of the Muslims of this country. To counter this allegation, Indian Muslims should loudly rebuff the self-styled leaders of the faith.

307 TRU, AF

J Singh (Cpl)

The crisis in Afghanistan is a sequel to the supply of arms in large quantities by the Super Powers to the rebels. The possession of arms has naturally prompted the war-mongers to utilise them. The heavy loss of life in Afghanistan could have been avoided if the Super Powers had not supplied weapons to the rival parties. Now the rehabilitation of refugees poses a major problem, causing concern to the neighbouring countries.

Since the guerrilla factions are not contented with the fragile, transitory peace, they may again start an armed conflict at any moment. In that eventuality there might be a wider international conflict. Formation of a firm and stable government alone can ensure peace and stability in that hapless country.

New Barrackpore

Gopal Ch Biswas

Your Special Feature on Afghanistan is highly commendable. Though Dr Najibullah ruled the country for nearly six years, he never got a chance to improve the position in various fields due to the bloodshed and the war. Your view that after Najib's departure from Kabul, Afghanistan may split on tribal and ethnic lines is well-founded.

For India this is another setback. On the one hand the country has to face continuous pressure from the U.S. on

NPT, the rocket engine deal and Super-301, and on the other it has to tackle the challenges from Pakistan, China and Sri Lanka. Now it seems that Afghanistan is also following the same path.

Allahabad

Aditya Kumar

NPT ISSUE

Your Cover Story "NPT: India Under Pressure" (June '92) was well compiled. It deserves appreciation.

The NPT is a discriminatory political instrument devised by the nuclear powers to restrict the nuclear club membership only to five. They want to maintain the status quo. The omission of any reference to vertical proliferation and the omission of nuclear guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon States are two basic weaknesses of the NPT.

A review of the current global strategic environment brings out the threat to India from China, U.S.A. and Pakistan. India must not bow to international pressure for signing the unequal NPT and should never agree to abandon its nuclear option.

A nuclear-weapon free world is the need of the hour. If all nuclear-weapon States agree to check vertical proliferation and eliminate their nuclear arsenals honestly, India would sign the NPT.

Jamalpur

Binay Kumar Mishra

INDO-US CONFLICT

This refers to your Special Feature "Sanctions Against India", which was highly informative. Such sanctions have created an undercurrent of tensions between India and the U.S.

The USA, which had given several assurances to help promote the development of India, today appears rather hostile; it has blacklisted ISRO and Glavkosmos following the sale of cryogenic rocket engines to India. The arguments of the USA regarding the necessity of such a ban are most unconvincing. The Indian space programme has proved to be an apple of discord. Of what avail are India's peaceful policies when it is suspected to have violated the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)?

Allahabad

Gaurav Tiwari

LINGUISTIC TROUBLES

Ever since independence, the demand for reorganisation of States on a linguistic basis has been gaining in intensity. In the name of language the country has witnessed some ghastly and blood curdling episodes in which people speaking one language were brutally done to death by people speaking another language. All these happenings cause a decline of patriotic and national feelings in the country.

In place of communalism we have another evil—linguistic antagonism which threatens to shatter the unity and solidarity of the country. The supreme irony of it all is that these activities are organised in the name of freedom and

democracy.

We have had enough of division and partition and have suffered a lot because of these happenings. We must not allow any more partitions. We have to rebuild our country and make it an ideal entity based on the socialistic pattern. We need unity and peace. If we go on fighting among ourselves over trifles and minor issues, we would be pushed back in our endeavours.

Berhampur

(Ms) Salila Nayak

ANOTHER 'BOFORS'

With reference to your editorial "Scandal Upon Scandal" (July '92), it would be pertinent to label the securities scam as another 'Bofors' in India. It is not Mr Harshad Mehta alone who needs to be unmasked; the politicians also have to be fully unmasked.

It is indeed very unfortunate that such scandals should occur at the present juncture of the economy, especially when the country awaits enormous foreign investments. Public confidence in the Indian banking system has been shattered.

Various types of corruption can be rooted out only if the masked are unmasked and duly punished by the law courts.

Shimla

Hirak Dasgupta

ROLE OF GOVERNORS

Apropos your Special Feature-II (June '92) "Focus on Role of Governors", the past years have witnessed the appointment of persons having a controversial political background as Governors and their unbecoming behaviour in a bid to protect the interests of the ruling party at the Centre. In Nagaland also, the role of the then Governor and of the Central Government are questionable. To checkmate such controversies, the President of India should be given a completely free hand in the appointment and dismissal of Governors. It should be made compulsory for the Governor to take into confidence the majority of M.L.A.s and the Union President before dissolving the State Assembly. The post of Governor should go only to high-ranking retired officers of the army and the judiciary.

Bhagalpur

Brendra Singh

THE "C.M."

"C.M." is doing excellent work by providing necessary information to its readers aspiring for a bright future. Labour in itself is not sufficient for any mission in life unless it is reinforced by proper guidance in the right direction. This is exactly what your magazine has been doing over the years.

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on bringing out such a superb journal.

Dashraura

Sarvesh Mishra

Another Shameful Episode

THE editorial "Scandal Upon Scandal" in our July issue made pointed references to two highly regrettable developments—the Bofors gun deal and the securities scam in which Mr Harshad Mehta played a leading role. Since then, yet another discreditable event has occurred, and it has been the focus of public attention in the country because of its grave implications. For the first time in India's electoral history, the entire exercise of Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council elections in Bihar were declared void and held again. Cases are known of a poll for a specific seat in a legislature having been cancelled by the Election Commission for certain valid reasons and on complaints of irregularities. But the Bihar elections had reached such dimensions that extreme measures were deemed necessary in order to safeguard the fair name of democracy.

The biennial elections were held in June to fill seven Rajya Sabha and 11 Legislative Council seats in Bihar, but there were complaints of malpractices which were confirmed by the enquiry team of Election Commission officials. It was found that the cardinal principle of secrecy of the ballot had been violated by the repeated presence of unauthorised persons in the polling booth. Among these intruders were the State Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. In a strongly worded statement, the Chief Election Commissioner severely criticised the Chief Electoral Officer and the Returning Officer. They were described as "totally unfit" for the jobs and were accused of "gross failure", irresponsibility and incapacity, and also of "gross dereliction of duty" which "totally vitiated the electoral process".

The failure of election management was undoubtedly shameful. Repolling was ordered in the circumstances. Apart from the irregularities in the poll booth, which included ballot snatching and intimidation, there were allegations of money power having been used again to secure votes.

It is obviously unfair to declare an election null and void on the basis of a solitary incident, but in the Bihar case several complaints of a varied character compounded the offence. The question which every lover of fair play and unadulterated democracy would ask is: Have things come to such a pass that no election can be held in this

country without incidents of violence, use of money and muscle power, booth capturing and other malpractices? If such irregularities continue, will India not forfeit her claim to be a democratic country? Recent experience has shown that elections at almost all levels—from local bodies to the Rajya Sabha—are marred by violence, corruption and other unethical practices. Not to speak of constituencies in unimportant areas, even the poll for the New Delhi parliamentary seat was marked by violence and threats.

The Bihar case is, however, not as simple as it seems. While the Chief Election Commissioner and his colleagues should be totally impartial and above controversy, Mr T.N. Seshan is not. In fact, some political parties, including the Janata Dal, have been demanding impeachment of Mr Seshan on the basis of certain actions taken by him during the last general election. He has become a highly controversial figure. The latest Bihar episode will surely revive and intensify the impeachment demand. Last year, the Prime Minister was reported to have assured some Opposition leaders that Mr Seshan would be replaced, but at the Press Conference in Delhi on June 30 this year Mr Narasimha Rao ruled out the possibility of replacing the Chief Election Commissioner, saying that he was yet to come across any Constitutional provision which empowered him to do so. Late last year, when the National Front and the Left Front collected over 100 signatures seeking the removal of Mr Seshan for his controversial actions, the Prime Minister persuaded the Opposition leaders not to press the demand and gave some assurances. But since then he has had second thoughts, which have angered the Opposition leaders who have been pressing the Lok Sabha Speaker to allow discussion on their impeachment motion.

The fully warranted conclusions are: cancellation of the Bihar election was justified because every election must be free and fair; at the same time Chief Election Commissioner should not play a partisan role; if he has played such a role, he should quit office. Presumably, he is a firm believer in democracy and fair play. A highly controversial C.E.C. cannot faithfully perform the functions he is entrusted with. Democracy should never be sullied or tainted.

Saving the Earth From Disaster

Empty Rhetoric At Rio

The much-publicised Earth Summit, officially known as the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held from June 3 to 14, at Rio De Janeiro (Brazil), was the world's largest gathering of heads of States and their representatives. However, the achievements were wholly disproportionate to the efforts largely because of the obstinacy of the U.S.A. The session was described by enthusiasts as "historic" but left many vital issues unresolved. There was much rhetoric but little concrete action. The reality fell far short of expectations.

I. Landmark Event

REPRESENTATIVES of 178 nations assembled at Rio adopted a global plan designed to save the planet from devastation. They approved an 800-page document known as "Agenda 21—a charter for ecologically-wise development into the 21st century". In addition, more than 150 of the countries signed two conventions which will eventually become binding treaties. One aims to protect the atmosphere from global warming and the other seeks to protect disappearing species of animals, plants and even microbes. The delegates adopted a non-binding statement of principles in respect of forestry conservation.

Also adopted was a Rio Declaration which sets out 27 principles, starting with a right to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. The conference resolved the funding mechanism for Agenda 21 with a rather ambiguously worded text reaffirming the developed nations' commitment pledging 0.7 per cent through the ODA for environment protection programmes. The document, however, did not come to grips with the problem of specifying a time-frame. The developing countries wanted to

wrest an assurance that the process would begin by 2000 AD but the document only specified that countries would affirm it as soon as possible.

India played a leading role at the session. The UN Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said the UNCED was "a turning point in history". He signed the agreement on the statement of principles of forestry as the major achievement of the UNCED. The setting up of a high-level commission on sustainable development to monitor the implementation of Agenda 21 was also cited by him as a landmark achievement.

About 150 nations, including the U.S., signed a treaty that might, if carried out, decrease the emissions that contribute to the global warming phenomenon. The 12-nation European Community and Japan went further. They promised to limit carbon dioxide emissions, which contribute to global warming, at the 1990 level by the year 2000.

Consent was overwhelming on a broad, non-binding statement of environmental rights and responsibilities, called the Rio Declaration. There was widespread approval of two companion pacts, the Agenda 21 blueprint of environmental action and an accord aimed at preserving the world's forests.

Still, the reality of Rio falls far short of the original vision of the Earth Summit. The summit did not take up many relevant issues, including toxic wastes, nuclear energy and over-population. It also considered some problems inadequately—for example, the precise terms by which "clean" technology and money will be transferred to countries that need them.

Not every country seemed to consider the effort worthwhile. The US, in particular, watered down the

global warming treaty, refused to sign the biological diversity treaty, and offered little. The elaborate Agenda 21, promoted as a plan to clean up and protect the environment over the next century, avoided the question of who would pay for it. The summit bypassed the pressing problems of the present and the crucial factors regarding sustainable development.

Increased global energy requirements have been depleting the environment rapidly, swelling the demand for fossil fuels, coal, and electricity. The scientists pointed out that unless there is a transition from conventional sources of energy to newer and more benign sources of energy, the rate of global pollution will continue to grow. In the absence of any agreement on these two fronts, the global environment will continue to get polluted and resources depleted due to the increasing needs of population.

II. Contentious Issues

THE two most contentious issues were forestry and finance. The forestry issue became sticky with the West keen on some concrete achievement to show to the people and their governments. Otherwise it would seem that the two and a half years of negotiations have been a waste of time. That is why the West sought an "intent of a forestry convention" to be specified in the forestry principles.

As for finance, developing countries are seeking a minimum of 0.7 per cent of the GDP of developed countries as official development assistance. Germany is willing to give up to one per cent of its GDP as ODA but would like the amount it is investing in its eastern half to be included in this one per cent. Developing countries would like the 0.7 per cent assistance (which would

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My name is Raj Bapna. I am the author of the famous surprisingly powerful course "Raj Bapna's Mind Power Study Techniques".

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And you can also benefit greatly.

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Not for Everyone

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But, it is for a person who studies sincerely and who really wants to get success.

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Your Success Depends on These 9 Success Factors

1. Your intelligence, memory, concentration
2. Your aims 3. Time you spend to achieve aims
4. Effectiveness or efficiency 5. Avoiding big mistakes
6. Health 7. Knowing that you can get much more success than you currently do
8. Writing, interview, speech techniques 9. Exam-techniques

And my course can help you improve in these factors. So, it will increase the chances of your success greatly.

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You will learn many other memory secrets.

Read Faster to Save Time

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If You Are Taking Coaching...

My course is like the foundation of a building. And coaching is like design for the building. Just as a strong foundation will help you build a good building, my course will help you make the best use of your study/coaching.

COURSE CONTENTS

1. Learn two mind power study techniques in one hour--and quickly improve your study efficiency
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3. Read faster and understand better :- Understanding and taking care of your eyes. Experience your mind power as a magnet. 3 more topics

What Newspapers Say

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- "It has many important suggestions. Interesting, educational and may help wake up hidden powers in the readers." -Rajasthan Patrika
- "Good for increasing your mind power. Useful for students." -Bombay Samachar

What Experts Say

- "New approach... Very effective and easy techniques for increasing the mental power, which is proved clinically also... it shows that there is no mental limitation. Sure this is an ideal course for students & professionals." -Dr B L Dalal, MBBS, MS, RNT Medical College
- "Techniques are simple, fast, and easy. Unbelievably, I improved my reading speed from 75 to 200 words per minute. My son (class 4) improved his memory. He also improved his reading speed from 45 to 100." -Prof M Bhatnagar, PhD, Formerly in USA
- "I appreciate the pains you have taken to go to the grass-root level to impress upon students, mind and the various techniques to develop their standard of education." -Mr Yendamaru Veerendranath, former CA, Famous author of 30 Telugu novels, Winner of Sahitya Academy Award
- "I found it a work beyond any text on the subject." -Dr S P Shrivastava, Cancer Specialist, MBBS, MD, MRC (France), Surat Gujarat
- "Excellent course... it has changed my life style. Increased my reading from 86 to 303 words per minutes in 5 days and strengthened my dream of success." -Dr Ratnakar Sahoo, S C B Medical College Orissa

Author's Bio-Data

- B E, BITS Pilani, M Tech, IIT Kharagpur. Prestigious NTS scholar. Rank 5 in High School Raj board (95% in Physics, Chem, Math)
- World-famous author. Published 3 books in USA including best selling book "Tricks of MS-DOS Masters", 721 pages, \$27.95.
- Increased my reading speed from 72 words to as fast as 1037 words per minute
- First engineering job paid only Rs 1000 per MONTH. Finally, earned \$50 (Rs 1500) per HOUR in USA as computer expert and writer
- At the peak of success, I left USA and returned to India. To share my mind power study techniques.
- Expert in computers, mind power, and study techniques. Was a member of the Society for Accelerated Learning & Teaching, USA
- Learnt No-Mind meditation of Osho, TM of Mahesh Yogi, H-tech meditation of Brother Charles, etc.

4. How to improve your memory in a surprisingly easy way :- Systematic Revision and Daily Routine: The easiest and most powerful memory techniques. 4 more topics

5. Interview techniques for self-confidence and success :- 4 topics

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more topics

10. Advanced memory techniques to remember long sequences, spellings, and complicated things :- 5 topics

11. Some major mistakes in exam-days and how to avoid them :- 3 topics

12. New research in brain science shows that you are more capable than you think :- 5 topics

13. 32 Important questions and answers :- 32 topics

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be about \$ 126 to \$ 130 billion) to be fitted into a time-frame but the developed countries said they cannot give a time-frame commitment because they would need the approval of their Parliament.

India scored a success when it got altered the text of the statement about forests, after "an enormous fight" and resistance from a number of countries, especially European ones who were pressing for a Forest Convention in the future.

The central issue is that we do not want globalisation of forests. Governments also cannot be handed over the rights of forest management which is a community resource in countries like India, a leading member of the delegation said. The altered text left very little scope for a future convention. The language of the text finally agreed to will not brook foreign interference in forest issues.

Another important addition was the phrase that forest management and conservation is of concern to the Governments of the countries to which they belong and "are of value to local communities and the environment as a whole". In the "principles" section of the text, in defining the use and needs of forests the crucial elements of "wood, water, food, fodder, medicine, fuel, shelter and employment" were added to its use.

The document that emerged represents a victory for southern governments. Although the North had hoped the document would have included stranger references to the global importance of forests, as well as a commitment to negotiate a forest convention after UNCED, they had to be content with the present document. Forests are an issue of national sovereignty, like oil resources.

The destruction of tropical forests increased by 50 per cent during the past decade, a U.N. study released at the Earth Summit shows. The report by the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation said about 17 million hectares of forest land are destroyed annually, mostly in South and Central America. About 70 per cent of total deforestation takes place

in rain forests. About 16.9 million hectares were destroyed last year, compared to 11.3 million hectares in 1980.

The U.N. study said the world has 4.9 billion hectares of forests, but the amount of forest land destroyed annually surpasses the amount that is replanted. Half of Latin America's land is covered by forests, as is 33 per cent of Asia and 27 per cent of Africa.

III. Rio Declaration

THE following are the main points of the Rio Declaration on principles, general rights and obligations on environment protection initiated by heads of governments at the Rio summit.

Principle—human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

—States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or areas.

—In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it. All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty.

—The special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, shall be given special priority in international actions.

—States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the earth's eco-systems. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear

in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command.

—To achieve sustainable development and a high quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable pattern of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies.

—States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, to better address the problems of environmental degradation. States shall develop national law regarding the liability and compensation for victims of pollution and other environmental damage.

—National authorities should promote the internationalisation of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should in principle bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment.

—Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is, therefore, essential to achieve sustainable development. The creativity, ideals and courage of the youth of the world should be mobilised to forge a global partnership in order to achieve sustainable development and ensure a better future for all.

—Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible. States shall resolve all their environmental disputes peacefully and by appropriate means in accordance with the U.N. Charter.

Climate Treaty: The climate convention, signed by India and other countries, is a mild version of the original draft and does not require any immediate change in fossil fuel consumption pattern nor entitle it to additional funds. The treaty is

merely an expression of the commitment of signatories to reduce the emission of heat-trapping greenhouse gases, mainly carbon dioxide produced by burning fossil fuels (petroleum and coal). It does not fix any target or deadline for reducing the emission of carbon dioxide.

The US, the world's major polluter in this sector, refused to sign the treaty on the ground that it will require the nation to effect major changes in economy that will render millions of its citizens jobless.

Scientific studies have proved that the industrialised countries of the northern hemisphere have caused most of the damage and account for over 80 per cent of the global carbon emissions. India's energy consumption per capita is about 250 kg of oil equivalent. The developed countries consume 20 times as much, about 5000 kg of oil equivalent, and the US twice this "price tag".

All States contribute to climate change and all States will, to different degrees, suffer from it.

Developed countries, however, have agreed in principle to provide funds to help poorer nations and it will be channelled through the existing Global Environment Facility jointly administered by the UNEP and the World Bank. Carbon taxes, to reduce consumption of fossil fuels, have already been introduced in countries such as Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. A proposal to extend this worldwide did not find favour with most of the countries.

The Summit reached an agreement in principle, promising drought-stricken Africa an international convention on desertification by 1994. The convention would be modelled after the Bio-diversity Convention and the Climate change Treaty signed at the summit and will be drawn up by the U.N. by June, 1994.

IV. Bush Disappoints

THE eagerly awaited speech of President Bush was disappointing to those who had expected him to

give some assurances. The US committed itself to a 66 per cent enhancement of financial assistance to environmental programmes the world over and above the 1990 levels. It would provide funding for Agenda 21 programmes above the existing commitment of \$ 25 millions already being provided.

Mr Bush said he had not come to Rio to apologise, but put forward with pride his environmental record. He claimed that the US had the strictest environmental standards. His country's efforts to protect bio-diversity would exceed what was mandated by the Convention. The U.S. is among the very few countries that have not signed the Bio-diversity Convention.

Mr Bush offered the full cooperation of his Government to the process begun in Rio in the area of environment and development. "It is the road from Rio that is now important" he said, pledging that the US would work to keep the process going. Mr Bush also indicated that he would double global forest assistance levels, US funding for forests will also be available bilaterally. "We aim to plant one billion trees a year." "The U.S. has the world's tightest air quality standards on cars and factories, the most advanced laws for protecting lands and waters and the most open processes for public participation", he added.

The US has been cast as the villain for weakening a treaty on global warming before it would agree to sign. Mr Bush is also isolated by his refusal to sign a second treaty to protect endangered animals and plants. He would not commit his country to anything that would cost jobs and affect the American lifestyle.

The Chinese premier, Mr Li Peng, said, "developed countries have a responsibility to find solutions and to transfer technology." But Mr Bush responded by linking economic growth under capitalism to a clearer environment. "There are those who say it takes State control to regulate the environment, and there are those who say economic growth and environmental protection are not com-

patible. Well, let them come to the US", he said.

India's opposition: India firmly opposed the USA on the issues of forest convention and "safe atmosphere" under Agenda 21. At the minister-level talks India refused to sign the Forest Convention on the ground that it would mean that our forest policy would be dictated by international guidelines. The fact is that the U.S. finds it convenient to use the existing forests of the Third World. India is of the view that the very words "forest convention" should not be included in the Rio declaration. The U.S. spokesman made it a prestige issue that India and other Third World countries must accept the proposal of a forest convention.

America was totally isolated on the issue of signing the Bio-diversity Treaty. Most US allies have gone against the opinion of President Bush and decided to sign the treaty. As Mr Kamal Nath, Indian Minister of Environment put it, for the first time the world united on a particular issue against America's point of view. For the first time this conference was without any blocs. India would also be a major beneficiary if the Bio-diversity Treaty was signed.

U.K. to share technology: On June 12, Britain announced an initiative to ensure that developing countries can share the benefits of technology through partnership with British companies. British Prime Minister John Major said that, in addition, Britain was ready to commit new and additional resources through the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The British Government believes that this facility should be replenished at a level of \$ 2-3 billion.

Britain will mobilise its aid programme to support the goals of Agenda 21. Britain also supports a substantial 10th replenishment of the International Development Association during which a special Earth Increment must be considered.

Germany's support: The German Chancellor, Mr Helmut Kohl, said that the industrial world must become conscious of its particular

responsibility in regard to the degradation of the global environment. The developing countries should be assisted in the new task of environmental protection which faces the entire international community. Mr Kohl offered total support to the Agenda 21 goals. He laid stress on Germany's special responsibility to assist neighbouring countries in the Eastern Europe. Mr Kohl affirmed a specific commitment to the developing nations in offering the 0.7 per cent of GNP as Overseas Development Assistance.

European nations pledged more funds at the summit to clean up the environment. They promised to provide more aid to the developing nations which cannot fight poverty and pollution without additional help. The European Community pledged \$ 4 billion in support of the summit's goals. The German Chancellor, Mr Helmut Kohl, committed his nation to reducing carbon dioxide emissions, a major cause of global warming.

V. World Bank's Verdict

THE World Bank has called upon high income countries to play a "major role" in financing the protection of the environment in developing countries which is essential for accelerating world economic development and reducing poverty. These countries must also assume the primary responsibility of addressing worldwide problems—green house warming and depletion of stratospheric ozone—of which they are the primary cause, says the bank's World Development Report, 1992.

The report outlines a multi-pronged strategy of policy reforms and institutional changes required to bring about accelerated development and better environmental management. Exploring the two-way relationship between development and the environment, the report describes how environmental problems undermine the goals of development. Attacking poverty a moral imperative; it is also essential for environmental stewardship.

The strategy calls for greater emphasis on population programmes,

female education, agricultural extension and research, sanitation and provision of clean water to one billion people who are without safe water and for more local participation in the design and implementation of development programmes.

The strong and growing evidence of the links between poverty reduction and environmental goals makes a compelling case for greater support for programmes to reduce poverty and population growth. Alleviating poverty is a moral imperative and a prerequisite for environmental sustainability.

VI. Limited Achievements

EVEN though the Earth Summit was not a triumph for either the North or the South, it did register some achievements which might, in due course, lead to a cleaner and healthier world.

One. It brought into sharp focus some urgent environment issues. This aim had not been achieved before, not even by the Stockholm conference. The Summit gave an edge to the developing countries in North-South politics.

Two. The Summit saw the beginning of a new polarisation after the end of the Cold War. The fears that the South, ever in need of patronage and economic aid from the North, would ultimately bow to pressure have been dispelled.

Three. India won recognition of the fact that it is an activist country on environment. This country played a key role in shaping the stand of the developing countries in voicing the concerns of the Third World, and letting it be known that the global environment movement can go forward only in a spirit of cooperation between the affluent and the poor.

Four. The U.S. has never been so isolated at any international conference as at the Earth Summit. The contradictions between the developed countries are out in the open. The coming years may sharpen this conflict as Europe (especially Germany), Japan and the U.S. compete for the several hundred billion dollar environment market.

Five. There has been firmness

among the developing countries. There was no compromise on the issue of sovereignty, and therefore there was no giving in to the proposals to create global forest and bio-diversity reserves, and insistence that any environment fund must be administered by an authority which has a democratic and transparent governing body, with equal say for donors and recipients of funds.

Six. The South has learnt a few hard lessons and has rallied together as never before. Political differences were forgotten as India, China, Pakistan and other G-77 countries stuck together to face the American onslaught worked earnestly with other members of the G-77 and succeeded in creating divisions among the affluent countries. The Convention on Bio-Diversity adopted at the Summit represents a modest but important victory for the developing world.

Seven. A major victory was the acceptance of a link between the bio-resources and the technology that flows from it, thus making a small hole in the Intellectual Property Rights Issue.

Eight. "The Polluter Must Pay" principle was effectively highlighted. The U.N. Secretary-General, Mr Boutros Ghali, stressed the principle on the very first day of the summit. The Third World pointed forcefully (with the full backing of scientific documentation) that the affluent nations had caused the problem. The 20 per cent of the population in the countries of the industrialised North together emit 80 per cent of the global greenhouse gases. The polluters must give the money and the technology to make possible the change.

This moral argument was reinforced by the fact that there are strong environment movements in Europe and some of the voluntary organisations had been referring to the "carbon debt" owed by the industrialised North to the developing poor countries. The Americans, as President Bush put it, are unwilling to change or even modify their life-style, even though this very life-style is responsible for the world's environmental woes.

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Harshad's Multi-Thousand Crore Scam

Stunning disclosures have been made by the enquiry committee that probed Free India's biggest bank securities fraud and allied financial irregularities committed in recent months. And yet, it is believed, that the investigating teams have scratched only the surface of the scandal. More seizures of shares and other assets are being made as the probe progresses.

IN the course of a few weeks many myths have been shattered, the image of many leading financial institutions has suffered irreparable damage, the reputation of many individuals has gone with the wind and many amazing bank transactions have been brought to light. Public confidence in the banking system and also in Mutual Funds organised by some banks has consequently been shaken. All these developments have taken place largely through the activities of a 37-year old brash, bold and brave Bombay share broker who built a financial empire worth a hundred crores and more over a period of a few months. Pursuing slick, subtle operations in close collaboration with some leading bankers, Harshad Mehta manoeuvred the share market as had never been done before.

The facts of the massive scandal read like fiction. But Harshad Mehta claims that he did not violate any laws, rules or established practices. He did not perform any underhand operations, nor did he cheat or deceive anyone (so far as is known) and yet he became a fabulously rich man in a short time. The Reserve Bank of India failed to monitor regularly a whole series of inter-bank transactions and was also guilty of other lapses. Its Governor, managers and other senior staff knew what was happening but did nothing

to stop it. The entire financial system, especially widely prevalent securities and bank receipts system, has been undermined and the existing loopholes have been ruthlessly exploited. The result is "the most stinking scandal in free India" which has gravely impaired the credibility of the Government and the banks for the functioning of which the Union Finance Ministry, the Reserve Bank of India, together with the Securities and Exchange Board, were supposed to be fully responsible. There have been gross violations of RBI guidelines by banks and other financial institutions.

Sequence of Events: The financial fraud and the various malpractices, the collusion and conspiracies at high levels are by no means a sequel to the 1991 or 1992 economic reforms or the current year's budget. The history of the scandal can be traced to certain steps taken in September, 1990, if not earlier. At that time officials of the Income Tax Department seized a part of Harshad Mehta's assets valued at Rs 4.80 crore. Few suspected at the time that the seizure was only the tip of an iceberg. The explanation was Mehta's lapse in failing to file the requisite income tax returns and paying the tax due from him. He was found to have violated Sections 44-AA and 44-AB of the Income Tax Act for failure to maintain proper accounts and getting them audited. If only he had taken care to pay income tax and had conformed to the requirements of the Income Tax Act, he would probably have been left free to carry on his role as the "big bull" of the share and securities network. The country might not have become aware of the massive scandal.

Throughout 1991 Harshad Mehta continued his masterly ac-

tivities, making fools of many people in the process. He built an unbelievable fortune the huge dimensions of which have been discovered only now. He remained virtually untouched; in fact, he managed to enlist the cooperation of more persons holding key positions in certain banks, including the country's most prestigious and leading bank—the State Bank of India (SBI).

In April, 1992, some functionaries suddenly found that the bank did not possess securities worth Rs 622 crore though its books indicated that it did possess them. Soon after Harshad Mehta learnt about the unexpected development, he reportedly paid the entire amount to the State Bank of India. From where he obtained the amount and who helped him at that stage is not definitely known. Evidently, there were several leading figures, including bank chairman, directors and financial institutions ever willing to oblige him. He was almost a king and certainly in a position to command control of massive amounts of money. The CBI has already taken possession of numerous shares owned by him. Boxes containing shares worth Rs 40 crore were seized by the CBI from a Delhi house in the third week of June. The Union Finance Minister asserted in mid-June, 1992, that on February 28 this year he had ordered a raid on Harshad Mehta's premises in Bombay. In April reports published in newspapers brought to light several glaring features of the scam. On April 30 the Finance Minister, on finding that the affair had assumed disconcerting proportions, announced in Parliament that it would hold a full enquiry into the matter.

On May 11, when repeatedly pressed by M.P.s, the Finance Minister finally ordered an enquiry into

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the financial scandal. The enquiry committee was headed by Mr K Madhavan. On May 14 the CBI ordered seizure of the properties of Harshad Mehta and his close associates. The bank accounts of the Mehta's family members were frozen and also his transactions in the stock markets.

On May 15 the Governing Board of the Bombay Stock Exchange suspended the membership of Mehta, his wife (also a registered share broker) and his brother. The bubble burst; a commentator wrote "King Bull has lost his kingdom."

The committee of enquiry appointed by the Reserve Bank of India (its report was published on June 3) revealed that the total amount involved in the irregular transactions made by some leading banks and financial institutions aggregated Rs 3078.63 crore. This body made a thorough probe in a short time, it gave details of the transactions and also named the parties involved (SBI, National Housing Bank, State Bank of Saurashtra, SBI Capital Markets Ltd, Standard Chartered Bank, the Bank of Karad and some other institutions). Later reports and enquiries disclosed that the amount involved in the scam was probably much larger.

The committee made a series of recommendations designed to prevent recurrence of such malpractices. The Union Government accepted the report and initiated action. Several arrests were made, many raids were conducted, scores of tell-tale documents and shares (owned by Harshad Mehta) worth crores of rupees were recovered. Raids were conducted in Bombay, Bangalore, Delhi and several other places where Harshad Mehta had established offices. These raids yielded lakhs worth of shares and considerable cash which have not been accounted for.

On June 6 the President of India promulgated an ordinance empowering the Government to attach movable and immovable property of any person involved in the offences committed. The ordinance, described as the Special Court (Trial of Offences) Relating to the Transactions in

Securities) Ordinance, 1992, stipulates that a special court would be set up for the trial of such offences.

Harshad's technique: Investigations and detailed enquiries have revealed that following his long and highly fruitful activities in the stock market, Harshad Mehta had almost perfected a technique which, thanks to the collusion of a few top men of some banks and others, worked well—to the immense benefit of Harshad Mehta. He offered swapping of low-yielding government bonds possessed by the State Bank of India (SBI) in exchange for high-yielding ones. He agreed to sell back, later, the high-yielding bonds to the SBI at a lower price. He then sold the high-yielding bonds in the market. New bonds were bought when the "coupon rates" were enhanced. Mehta bought back the bonds at a lower price.

Thus he cornered the profits and the SBI bonds were supposed to have been returned. But actually he did not return them. An officer of the bank wrongly reported that the transaction had been squared up. The borrowed securities were utilised to borrow money from banks to plough it into the stock market. A vital role was played by the bankers' receipts which showed that he had the bonds with him. The discrepancy between the values of the securities involved was discovered and the game was up.

Financial experts now concede that Harshad Mehta (the "big bull") brought ingenuity and a seemingly unexceptionable technique for making money rapidly, probably laughing in his sleeves at the willingness of people to fall victims to the conspiracy. The share prices were thus raised artificially; sick companies made "profits" and there was a boom in the share market, all as a result of manoeuvring. Harshad Mehta walked about with crores of rupees virtually in his pocket (cheque-books galore) and fat bank balances at several centres.

It is amazing that the Reserve Bank of India and Union Finance Ministry Officials failed to see through the ploys. They seem to have woken up to the harsh realities of the

Harshad game when the committee headed by the Deputy Governor, Mr R. Janakiraman, sent in his report (a preliminary one) which showed a massive swindle of bank funds. The general public were shocked. No wonder there was a loud demand for resignation of both the Finance Minister and the Reserve Bank Governor. The moral responsibility was theirs; about this there is no doubt.

But in the middle of June Dr Manmohan Singh dismissed opposition M.P.s' demand that he must quit in the light of the securities scam. "My conduct is an open book", he declared. "I have not joined the Government for money or to enrich my family or friends. If anyone has evidence against me, let him pass it on to the CBI." He said the CBI would have full freedom to investigate his conduct as Finance Minister.

According to him, there is a considerable difference between the Mundhra scandal which virtually compelled the then Finance Minister to resign because of the allegation that the transactions between Mr Mundhra and the LIC were ordered at the instance of the Union Finance Ministry.

The accusation against the Union Finance Minister is not one of complicity or misappropriation of bank funds. In fact no one has alleged that the Finance Minister has ever resorted to unethical methods. But it is a question of bearing the moral responsibility for what has happened almost under the nose of the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank. If, as the Janakiraman committee has contended, the apex banking institution in the country was fully aware of the scandalous deals in the stock and share markets and also of the misuse of bank funds (the public sector banks were directly involved in the scandal), someone must suffer for the serious lapse. The Government is making efforts to bring the guilty persons to book, but that is not enough. A complete overhaul of the present banking system is evidently called for in order to eliminate mismanagement, fraud and corruption. The nexus between bankers and brokers certainly needs to be broken.

ECONOMIC SCENE

Dismal Economic Performance

Q. The government's fiscal and monetary policies have a poor showing (Reserve Bank of India). Comment.

Ans. The assessment of the Indian economy by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its annual report on *Currency and Finance, 1990-91*, is a sad commentary on the government's fiscal and monetary policies. Some of the facts that lead to this conclusion may be enumerated here.

Negative points: The unabated inflation during the last year, notwithstanding the fiscal and monetary measures (some quite drastic) taken by the government, is a major concern mainly because it is concentrated in primary commodities such as foodgrains, vegetable, sugar and edible oils. Prices have tended to increase even in respect of commodities which are not in short supply.

Both the narrow money (M_1) and the broad money (M_2) registered substantial increases 25.2 per cent and 19.5 per cent, respectively, during 1991-92. Correspondingly the growth in 1990-91 was as low as 16.8 per cent and 15.9 per cent. The sharp rise in M_2 is traced to the unexpected surge in the net foreign exchange assets of the banking sector. All the same it remains a fact that the government policies to rein in the money supply, an avowed objective of the fiscal adjustment programme, failed to make a substantial impact on the price level.

The inflationary impact of the monetary expansion was compounded by squeeze on imports. These were necessary first to conserve the foreign exchange and secondly to reduce the impact of the costly imports in the wake of rupee devaluation. The curbs have been lately relaxed as the foreign exchange situation eased.

The stagnation in agricultural output in 1991-92 and the consequent low procurement of foodgrains has also fuelled the price spiral. The foodgrain production is placed at around 171.1-172.6 million ton, as against the previous year's level of 176.2 million ton. The foodstocks were lower by 4.72 million ton at 14.46 million ton at the end of January 1992. This is not the place to explain the cause of the shortfall in buffer stocks but it bears a mention that it was more the creation of anti-social elements who enticed the 'greedy' farmers to hold the grain as the traders promised to pay a higher price if they pledge to do so. And this, despite the higher procurement price of Rs 280 a quintal of wheat as against Rs 250 fixed initially by the government.

For the first time since 1980-81, the industrial production during April-December, 1991, slid down, primarily because of the poor performance of the manufacturing sector whose output drastically decreased by 2.7 per cent from 10.8 per cent in the previous year.

The decline is attributed to import curbs which had been necessitated by the need to reduce the pressure on the outgo of foreign exchange reserves, already in short supply.

The Gross Domestic Product growth for 1991-92 is estimated at 2.5 per cent which is the lowest ever.

Positive Points: The spurt in foreign exchange reserves following the liberalisation policies on trade and industrial fronts, abolition of the licence raj and the incentives to foreign investors to invest in India stand out as landmarks. The fiscal and monetary policies paved the way to revive confidence of the international agencies in the vast potentialities of India's economy. This, in turn, helped confidence-building of the nation. The dark clouds of the

worst-ever economic crisis have disappeared.

The trade deficit is likely to have narrowed down which is a big consolation. But the way it was achieved, that is by resort to import restrictions rather than through export expansion does not give one a cheer. The deficit sharply dwindled to under \$ 2.5 billion in 1991-92 from over \$ 8 billion dollar in 1990-91.

Population Policy

Q. "The rapid growth of population is one of the greatest barriers to economic growth and social well-being of the people in the world." (Robert S. McNamara). Explain and suggest a suitable population policy.

Ans. Growth trends: The problems of population have been the focus of attention of demographers, economists and sociologists since Malthus propounded the well-known Malthusian Theory of Population. Population is no longer viewed as merely a problem of numbers. A new twist has been given to it, namely, how the rapid growth of population affects, and is affected by, socio-economic development and environment. The question confronting the world, the third world, in particular, is how it can be deployed as an asset and how to minimise its being a liability.

Former President of the World Bank, Mr McNamara is one of the champions of this approach.

It needs no laboured argument to establish that the population growth, both globally and in India, has been on an unprecedented scale during the recent past. It took over a million years for the world population to reach one billion in 1800 A.D. The second billion was added in 130 years, the third in 30 years and the fourth in 15 years. The population rose by 60 per cent to touch 5.4 billion in just 23 years from 3.4 billion in 1968. India too has

grown by about the same percentage to 865 million in 1992

The United Nations estimates an addition of about 100 million in the world in a year during this decade or a billion by the end of the century. This includes 16 million per annum increase in India. Over 90 per cent of the population growth is taking place in the developing countries. This is far in excess of the capacity of other resources to absorb. The 'surfeit' of manpower ceases to be an asset. It results in abject poverty.

The Malthusian doctrine of population stressed that there are limits to growth of population and sustainable development for better life. The rise in population means increase in per capita consumption which at the rate of 2 per cent per year would be 8 times greater than today by the end of the next century. This would require 20 times increase in consumption of physical resources. This is unsustainable. The result is perpetual poverty and the solution population control through deliberate action if environment is not to be damaged.

India occupies the pride of place for its initiatives to contain the population growth. It was in early 1950s. Resort was taken to family planning, less children properly spaced out in a family. The growth trends during the last several decades has revealed that the desired results have eluded the policy-makers. Mr McNamara points out that among other things, the Indian government adopted short term measures and the campaign for reduction in fertility rates lacked emphasis on enhancing the status of women and on reducing infant mortality and increasing the pace of economic and social advance. These are medium and long-term measures which should complement and support the short term policy.

Female literacy should be an important ingredient of policies addressed to decelerate the population growth. At the same time, the age of marriage should be raised. The law in force in connection with the age of marriage must be implemented faithfully. What is noticed is that it is observed more by breach than by

observance, especially by the rural people and the poor section of society.

He has also suggested establishment of a National Population Council and State Population Councils.

"Save Earth" Summit

Q. Write a short note on the issues involved in the "Save Earth" campaign launched at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).

Ans. For the first time ever 100 Heads of States and governments of 180 developed and developing countries recognised at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development that the time has come now to save the Mother Earth which has been exploited since the advent of the industrial revolution. It were the affluent countries first to do it and now the developing countries have started showing that they cannot lag far behind.

What exactly are the problems? As T.R. Malthus long ago pointed out the natural resources gifted by nature to mankind to 'live', which came to be identified with 'live luxuriously' and in plenty not in poverty and degradation, are severely limited. They must, therefore, be used prudently. The emphasis on plenty brought pollution and over-exploitation of the resources. The trend must be so reversed that what man draws from nature to sustain himself leaves, at least, so much as is necessary for nature to sustain itself—may it be land, water or air.

It is no longer a national issue but a global one. As Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao observed in his inaugural address at the UNCED "all the issues before us are integral links in a single chain, a single package to save the earth". In a wider perspective environment and development are inseparable. We cannot have conservation of environment without promise of development. At the same time, we must ensure that the affluence of some is not derived from the poverty of many. Therefore, the North and South have to forge a bond of cooperation. This cannot, of course, be a bland agreement, acceptable to one and all, but the satisfac-

tion of the needs and requirements of one nation must not inflict untold sacrifice on others. A spirit of give-and-take needs to be adopted.

A few useful and practical suggestions that Mr Rao spelt out at the conference were:

1 All countries must make credible commitments. And to set the ball rolling he instantaneously offered India's readiness to do so. For instance, India has made some headway in the development of technology for generating solar energy and wind energy. India was prepared to share the technology with other countries interested in it. The known technology is uneconomic at the moment but he expressed the confidence that if a determined bid were made to achieve economies of scale, the success is within reach.

He, however, added that he is not 'in' for transfer of technology but training and adaptation of it suited to the countries' circumstances. He firmly opposed the idea of technology transfer and urged stopping the transfer of destructive technologies which alone would provide the incentive for the development of environment-friendly technologies.

As a corollary to this, joint venture on joint technology R & D need be encouraged. In this the developed nations with vast potential of R & D can play a prominent role.

2 Large-scale awareness programmes in the developed and developing countries are needed to be encouraged.

3 Mr Rao urged serious consideration of the Planet Protection Fund which was designed to make all countries bear an equitable financial burden for accessing environmental-friendly countries. This idea was initially mooted by his predecessor, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

4 For preserving bio-diversity, he suggested the creation of a Gene Bank. It may be added, however, that the US refused to sign the Bio-diversity Pact while most of the nations did. Ironically, while the US wanted to globalise the natural resources of the developing countries, it would exclude forests in that country because they were privately owned.

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The Authoritarian, Ego-centric Personality

Definition

THE authoritarian personality is a unhealthy type of personality that stands in the way of self-actualization or the realisation of one's full inherent potentials, the most fundamental goal of the human personality.

Authoritarianism has been described as 'false mastery'. "Authoritarians, for all their pretensions to mastery, tend inwardly to be chronically depressed and unhappy people, suffering from an almost total lack of real human fulfilment, secretly aware that they are bumbling through life chasing some unknown inhuman thing, being tolerated but never really respected by others, and suffering from blind inert acceptance of their fates." He is a victim of boredom, stress and frustration.

An authoritarian is a person who lacks real self-confidence, who has a weak ego, and who clings to his authority figure as a helpless infant clings to his mother. He is nothing without those who blindly follow him. He has no real authority over himself because he accepts artificial limits placed on him by society and lets his frustration out on others.

'Authoritarian' is generally considered a bad thing because it restricts, stifles others as well as the original authoritarian.

'Psychologically' the term 'authoritarian personality' is defined thus by Krech and Crutchfield: "A cluster of traits found in some persons. It includes high degree of conformity, dependence on authority, over-control of feelings and impulses, and rigidity of thinking.

Key Traits of the Authoritarian Personality

THE following are the key traits of the authoritarian personality:

Conformity: Conformity means the yielding of the individual's judgement of action to group pressure arising from a conflict between his own opinion and that maintained by the group. The essence of conformity is yielding to group pressure.

One approach to personality is to study the measurable traits of the individual. Traits are defined as characteristics that can be observed or listed objectively or inferred from observable, measurable behaviour. These are often called dimensions of personality. Some of these traits are desirable while some others are undesirable ones. The desirable traits are the assets of personality; the undesirable traits are its liabilities or handicaps. The secret of developing a good plus personality is the determination to cultivate good personality traits and to cure yourself of undesirable traits.

In this paper an attempt is made to point out some undesirable personality traits so that you may analyse and shed them. It will take energy and perseverance to do so but the effort will be worth your while.

It is opposed to independence of judgement and action, wherein the individual makes up his own mind being able to take the group or leave it, as his own good sense would dictate. Conformity is rampant today. Indeed our age has been called the Age of Conformity. Most persons are

conformists; they follow, they never create; the non-conformist alone is a creative person. According to the psychologist T.W. Adorne, "Conformity is one of the major expressions of lack of an internal focus." By this he means that an authoritarian person is motivated, virtually governed by opinions and social forces external to himself; he is weak when it comes to relying on his own independent sets of values, beliefs, instincts.

Dependence on Authority: An authoritarian person is submissive to established authority. He rarely strays from established, pre-packaged lines on any subject. In behaviour he is typically submissive and dependent on authority in contrast to the more autonomous person who challenges authority and refuses to accept things as they are simply because an authority figure or institution decrees they should be so. He is a slave of custom and tradition which inhibit his freedom of choice and independence. "There is no tyrant like custom", says Christian Bovee, "and no freedom where its edicts are not resisted."

Over Control of Feelings and Impulses: The authoritarian personality tends to exhibit emotional constraint, indirect expression of hostility, lack of spontaneity and repression of impulse to a far greater degree.

Over-sensitiveness is a big personality handicap. An over-sensitive person is distressed by little annoyances, pin-pricks that do not bother normally sensitive folk. His nerves are always on edge. He adopts a boxer's stance mentally as soon as people come around. He throws up defences before they are needed or retires hurt and crest-fallen crying. He forgets insults he himself ad-

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ministers and remembers only the apparent apathy and callousness of others. He forgets that others are human just as he is. It does not pay to be over-sensitive and to bicker over trivialities with others. Don't be a fuss-pot. Don't turn pin-pricks into tragedies.

A famous television star devised a wonderful system for coping with vicious and insulting poison-pen letters. He mailed the offending missive right back to the sender with this note of his: "The enclosed letter arrived on my desk a few days ago. I am sending it to you in the belief that as a responsible citizen you should know that some idiot is sending out letters over your signatures. Cordially....."

Rigidity of thinking: The authoritarian personality is rigid in thinking. He has a one-track mentality. Rigidity has been aptly called *uncreative deadness*. Like a rigid character in W.S. Maugham's novel *Of Human Bondage*, he lays "an exaggerated stress on not changing one's mind". He is reluctant to entertain any thoughts that conflict with his own pre-conceived ideas. There is no way to reach him. In him rigidity extends from thought into habits and behaviour. He fears change in any form. He is like a Duke of Cambridge credited with the saying, "Any change in whatever direction for whatever reason is strongly to be deprecated." This malady of rigidity affects him and all those around him with anxiety, depression and boredom.

Stubbornness is a personality-liability. A stubborn individual does not hold opinions: they hold him. There is nothing so obnoxious as a man who is always right, never compromises, and is the happiest when he can get into a hot, unreasonable argument. He never admits his shortcomings; he is never wrong.

Narrow-mindedness and fanaticism are forms of stubbornness. A man of rigid personality is dogmatic. He is unable to appreciate the other person's point of view. He gives the impression that he cannot be convinced about anything.

Irritability: Another undesirable

personality trait of an authoritarian is irritability. A man who is irritable has a defensive personality. He doubts the sincerity of his friends; is easily offended and resents any criticism. One disparaging word and he explodes. His irritability stems from his dissatisfaction with himself and he expresses it by projecting his unhappiness on to others. He uses this mechanism to dissipate his unconscious bottled-up self-hatred. Some one else has to suffer for his sorrows. His up-set is chronic. He cannot shake off other people's abusiveness. He allows himself to be swayed away by his emotions. He lacks self-control.

Ego-centricity: Ego-centricity is a serious personality handicap. An ego-centric person is self-centred, that is he is interested primarily in himself and his own concerns and indifferent to the concerns of others. He appraises everything in the terms of "How does it affect me?" His is strictly a "What can I gain?" attitude. There is too much of 'I' in his personality make-up.

An ego-centric person is vain, conceited and selfish. He thinks that the world moves only around him. As Dr Caprio puts in, "He fails to realize that he is just a speck in the great wide world." A moderate amount of egoism and pride are normal. But excessive vanity, over-estimation or self-conceit are serious defects in personality.

Intolerance of Ambiguity: Another key trait of the authoritarian personality is a low tolerance for ambiguity (*an expression of doubtful or double meaning*). He finds it difficult to tolerate or manage inconsistencies and surprises. He tends to display a generalized tendency to dichotomise (*to divide in two parts*) the world. Things and people are seen as all good or all bad; the world is black or white. For them all Jews are Shylocks; all teenagers are rowdy; all women are wily; all men are only after sex; this generation is going to the dogs; all modern art is tripe; all psychiatrists are phonies. Their ideas tend to be stereo-typed. Their talk has a flavour of dogmatism; of black-white thinking.

An authoritarian tends to think of himself as perfectionist. One of his pet sayings is 'A place for everything and everything in its place'. He cannot adjust to the idea that in this life few things or people will stay where he wants them for long.

Anti-Intellectualism: The authoritarian is anti-intellectual, distrustful of thinkers, philosophers, psychologists, professors etc. Sample his typical remarks, "Oh, those professors, they are all a bunch of commies (bleeding-heart liberals, egg-heads, book worms). They don't know what the hell they're talking about when it comes to the real world."

Anti-Introspection: The authoritarian tends to be anti-introspective. He resists looking inward into his own behaviour pattern. He refuses to look in the mirror, psychologically speaking. He places all hope and blame for everything on the external.

Paranoia: The authoritarian also tends to be paranoid. (Paranoia means "*psychologically abnormal*"—a form of insanity characterised by fixed delusions, esp. of grandeur, pride, persecution) Since he harbours so many illusions of superiority over others and secretly feels that others must view him the same way, he suffers from delusions of persecution. His basic distrust of himself makes him suspicious about every human encounter. He believes that every one is out to get every one else, that "You always have to watch out for yourself and get the other guy before he gets you". He is, therefore, a victim of scepticism (inclined to disbelieve) and irrational fear rather than spontaneous and natural.

Anti-Weakness: He is also anti-weakness, equating weakness with evil. He subscribes to every man the survival of the fittest philosophy known as Social Darwinism, which says, "Those who can't make it on their own in this competitive world shouldn't be coddled and protected; their failures are nature's way of weeding out the weakest links in the human evolutionary chain." He thus tends to oppose all forms of social welfare.

Improve Your Word Power

- 1 **amble:** (a) ride (b) run (c) meditate (d) hate
- 2 **bunkum:** (a) pleasant (b) nonsense (c) ugly (d) strength
- 3 **chortle:** (a) harass (b) embarrass (c) complain (d) chuckle
- 4 **deft:** (a) dirty (b) skilful (c) awful (d) cheerful
- 5 **erratic:** (a) foreign (b) native (c) abnormal (d) local
- 6 **fatuous:** (a) humble (b) arrogant (c) vain (d) quiet
- 7 **garish:** (a) showy (b) stinking (c) exceptional (d) passive.
- 8 **hog-wash:** (a) rational (b) talkative (c) modest (d) nonsense
- 9 **implicate:** (a) invite (b) involve (c) donate (d) lend
- 10 **laggard:** (a) whisper (b) protest (c) lazy (d) suffering

- 11 **minion:** (a) official (b) subordinate (c) private (d) confusion
- 12 **nibble:** (a) show (caution) (b) rush (c) defy (d) obey
- 13 **probity:** (a) problem (b) solution (c) expression (d) integrity
- 14 **quizzical:** (a) strange (b) valid (c) inquiring (d) deadly
- 15 **ruse:** (a) denial (b) trick (c) defiance (d) irritation.
- 16 **scam:** (a) scheme (dishonest) (b) ideal (c) sacrifice (d) agreement
- 17 **tantrum:** (a) hit (b) storm (c) speed (d) devotee.
- 18 **under-world:** (a) godown (b) criminal (place) (c) balcony (d) granary
- 19 **vegetate:** (a) develop (b) grow (c) stagnate (d) submit
- 20 **wag (n):** (a) humorist (b) scholar (c) speaker (d) orator

ANSWERS

- 1 **amble:** (a) ride/walk leisurely
—While the people were anxiously waiting for the minister some police constables came *ambling* down the road
- 2 **bunkum:** (b) non-sense
—Don't believe what he is saying—it is pure *bunkum* and fabrication of facts
- 3 **chortle:** (d) chuckle/rejoice/laugh
—When I told them what had happened to me they all *chortled* with mirth
- 4 **deft:** (b) skilful/quick
—It is a treat to watch her *deftly* dealing with the hostile press correspondents' questions
- 5 **erratic:** (c) abnormal, unreliable, odd
—His *erratic* behaviour with the customers led to the closure of his shop/establishment
- 6 **fatuous:** (c) vain, foolish, silly
—Although the artist was known for his *fatuous* remarks/style, yet he was quite dear to the people
- 7 **garish:** (a) showy/gaudy
—In his *garish* clothes the actor evoked snide/s/remarks among the viewers
- 8 **hog-wash:** (d) non-sense, bulge
—The speaker failed to excite the audience because much of his speech was mere *hog-wash*
- 9 **implicate:** (b) involve, connect, associate
—My friend's enemies tried to *implicate* him in the murder/plot
- 10 **laggard:** (c) lazy, sluggard
—He is no *laggard* when it comes to asking for more money (i.e. He is very quick to do this)

- 11 **minion:** (b) subordinate/assistant
—The dictator and his *minions* were put to death after they were overthrown in a coup
- 12 **nibble:** (a) show caution
He *nibbled* at my idea/proposal but would not make a definite decision
- 13 **probity:** (d) integrity, honesty, rectitude
India is still a country of persons with proven *probity* and perception who can show the way to the world
- 14 **quizzical:** (c) inquiring, questioning, interrogative
—While answering the correspondents' questions a former prime minister used to make use of his *quizzical* tone
- 15 **ruse:** (b) trick, stratagem
—A successful politician is always alert and adept in thinking up a *ruse* to outwit his opponents
- 16 **scam:** (a) scheme (dishonest), scandal
—The recent revelations show that the 'securities *scam*' was not limited to one bank/institution alone
- 17 **tantrum:** (a) fit outburst, frenzy
—Most pampered children are in the habit of throwing *tantrums* at the slightest provocation
- 18 **under-world:** (b) criminal/vicious place
—Smugglers and gangsters operate from the *under world* and seldom fall into the hands of law-enforcing agencies
- 19 **vegetate:** (c) stagnate, exist
—The curse of poverty and illiteracy forces the poor and the illiterate to merely *vegetate* in life
- 20 **wag (n):** (a) humorist, joker
—He is such a person as proves himself a bit of a *wag* on all occasions

DESCRIPTIVE QUESTIONS

The following are the answers to questions in the "Descriptive Paper" set for the BSRB (Bhopal) Clerical examination held recently.

We thank Mr Anit Kumar Das of Bihar, Mr Saroj Kumar Sahu of Jeypore (Orissa) and Mr Lakshminidhar Jena of Balasore (Orissa) for sending us the question paper.

Degrees and Diplomas

Q. 1. Some persons feel that after acquiring professional degrees and diplomas, people do not want to serve in rural areas. Write as many reasons as possible, but in any case not less than three, for the above-mentioned situation.

Ans. There is no doubt that people holding professional degrees and diplomas are disinclined to serve in rural areas despite the series of incentives in various shapes offered by the Government. There are several reasons for this. First, highly qualified persons are distinctly urban-oriented; they have lived in towns for many years and are so accustomed to the amenities available in these areas that they find it difficult to live in villages where the conditions are totally different.

Second, there is hardly any scope for the exercise of their professional capabilities in the rural areas. As a result, they begin to feel that all their higher education and their technical qualifications will go waste if they are directed by the Government to serve in the villages.

Third, the conditions in the villages are insanitary; there are dirty, stinking drains, or none at all in many places. Hygienic latrines are missing; the dry latrines and the inadequately removed excreta emit foul smell all the time. Village men and women go out every morning and evening and use the fields as public conveniences. Highly educated people do not like to resort to this practice and so there is intense

inconvenience to such people on this account.

Fourth, nor are there adequate medical facilities in the rural areas. When these outsiders fall ill and require expert treatment, they have to go to a town or city. Sometimes there is danger to life because of the lack of proper medical attention. This also applies to the highly educated persons' children and other members of their families, including the elders if and when they live with them.

Five, most of the time these well-educated people have to send their children to towns to get good education. Villages have only primary or at least middle schools. This results in splitting the families, with the women and children living in towns and the earning male members residing in rural areas.

Women and Jobs

Q. 2. Women are more suitable for clerical jobs than for officers' jobs.

Give two arguments in favour and two arguments against the viewpoint expressed in this statement.

Ans. Opinions differ on the question whether women are more suitable for clerical jobs than for officers' roles. It all depends on individual perceptions about the capacity of women, the energy they can command, and the sense of responsibility they can display in specific situations.

Arguments in favour

1. Most women have so many duties to perform at home that they can do only light clerical work in offices. Whenever prolonged hard office work is required, women lag behind men. Clerical work suits women admirably because they have also to look after children, perform several domestic chores, prepare breakfast and other meals for their husbands (if the women are married).

The time and energy they can spare for office work is limited.

2. Women have a tendency to waste time in mere gossip and do knitting work during office hours. The actual time they devote to office work is not much, especially in establishments where the service is secure and there is little supervision. Women can take liberties with their office duties when they are mere clerks.

Arguments Against the View

1. It is wrong to believe that women cannot function efficiently as officers. Wherever women have been posted to senior jobs, in Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi, for instance, they have proved successful and have seldom been found wanting. Percentage-wise, more men officers have proved failures than women officers. In fact, several women have won awards for efficient management of business and commerce. It is a question of giving them opportunities to show their worth.

2. Women possessing a commanding personality and the requisite qualifications have won distinctions and awards. They have proved better disciplinarians than men and they are more honest too. Women officers have shown greater sense of responsibility than men. Corrupt women officers are very uncommon. As for domestic duties, capable women working as officers manage to look after children and the elders also; they secure help in this direction from female relations, mothers, sisters, etc, and also employ part-time women servants to perform certain duties during their absence from home. Well-paid women officers can afford to pay for good servants. Their husbands generally cooperate and do not insist that the working wife must do all the cooking and washing also. Hard-working women do manage things well in both home and office.

Schools and Personality

Q. 3. Schools are solely responsible for shaping the personality of the children.

Write your opinion about the above statement. Substantiate your opinion by giving instances and examples from your own experience, reading and knowledge.

Ans. There is no doubt that schools have an important role to play in shaping the personality of the children. That is why wise parents choose really good schools for their children, even though schools having a high reputation for education and for giving adequate attention to the all-round development of the children's personality are very expensive and often beyond their means. School fees and other expenditure on education are indeed high. In many cases only the affluent parents can afford to send their children to first class institutions. Parents rightly regard good education as a matter of the highest importance for the future of their wards.

However, it is not fair to regard schools as solely responsible for shaping the children's personality. Parents must also share the responsibility. For most of the day and night the children remain at home and under the care of their parents. Every school has several hundred children on its rolls. Giving individual attention to each child is almost impossible to pay. Schools are admittedly important for developing the child's personality and intellectual capabilities, but parents should not disclaim responsibility in this matter. Inculcating good, clean habits is a matter that requires the fullest attention of parents and other elders at home.

I know several children who have developed into bright talented youth, mostly because they were educated in schools known for excellence. Most of the public schools have a commendable record in this arena. The students of these schools win awards, scholarships and other distinctions in both academic and sports fields. The students thus bring much credit to the institutions where they were educated.

Sometimes children taught in ordinary schools also earn distinctions but they are exceptions, not the rule. The foundations of bright careers are laid in schools of a high standard and in homes where the parents take personal interest in the all-round progress of their children

I have also read, in books and magazines, several success stories of boys and girls who have done very well in life because of the great care taken by their teachers and parents. It is common knowledge that children of parents who neglect their children and themselves spend many hours every evening in clubs and hotels or fulfilling their social obligations remain far behind others. Generally, such people are rich businessmen and industrialists. They are highly complacent, they hold the view that their children have to join the family business or industrial enterprise and therefore need not get high education. But this view is not well founded. Development of character and personality brings rich dividends in every field of activity

Role of Plants and Trees

Q. 4. Suppose we do not have plants and trees around us, what will happen?

Explain at least three possible consequences if such a situation arises.

Ans. Trees and plants play a vital role in life on this planet. They are highly valuable and are very useful creations of the Almighty

Some possible consequence of the non-existence of trees and plants would be.

1. Trees and plants are indispensable for human life because they give out oxygen which is essential for our existence and absorb carbon dioxide which we breathe out as waste and which is also emitted, through chimneys, by industrial establishments and house kitchens using coal for cooking purposes. If there were no trees and plants, there would be disastrous accumulation of carbon dioxide and lack of the vital oxygen.

2. Several varieties of trees and plants bear fruits and give us all-important grains, oil-seeds, pulses, and

other important foodstuffs. If these cease to exist, mankind would have to starve. Nature has created a well-balanced and eminently rational structure around us. Trees provide several varieties of wood which are used by human beings for fuel, house construction, and making furniture (in recent years wood has been partly replaced by plastic, plywood and other products which help us to minimise the use of wood—a commodity now becoming scarce)

3. The immense importance of forests, comprising trees, plants and bushes, was stressed at the recent UN Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) held at Rio de Janeiro. Much concern has been expressed in recent years over the rapidly vanishing forests and the resultant loss of animal and bird life (many species of both have already become extinct). There would be a great disaster all round if the environment and ecology suffer irreparable damage and erosion.

4. Trees and plants provide the much sought after greenery, flowers, etc. What would this world be without flowers and other such products of bountiful nature? If there is no greenery, the world would be a dull, drab and unattractive place.

Trees and plants help a great deal in bringing rain and preventing floods. If the globe becomes totally barren, there would be bare earth, erosion of the soil and destruction of fertility which in turn would make land unfit for production of foodgrains and other farm products. Human beings are surely entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature, if the natural surroundings, including trees and plants, are not there, the harmony and balance we depend upon would disappear. That would be a terrible disaster. Sustainable development is admittedly vital for all of us. At the Rio summit, and also at other forums, the "Polluter Must Pay" principle was widely stressed for global welfare. Much emphasis is now being laid on saving the earth from utter disaster. A good part of the stress is on retaining and developing forest wealth—trees and plants—and on preventing thoughtless exploitation of all natural resources.

Argumentative Questions on Social and Economic Problems

The following are the answers to some of the questions in the paper on 'Social and Economic Problems' set for the NABARD examination held in January 1992. The answers to the first four questions of the paper were published in the July issue of CM.

UNDER-DEVELOPED INDIA

Q. 5. Describe the characteristics of India as an under-developed country.

Ans. India is a prominent under-developed country, the socio-economic conditions in this land are wholly unsatisfactory and smack of backwardness in most arenas of activity. Although the country has lately been making progress in many fields, such as science and space, it is still far behind the advanced countries. It will probably take many decades to come up to the level of the developed regions. The problems India faces are of huge dimensions and require all-round mobilisation of resources, together with sound, systematic, planning in order to rid the people of the misery, destitution and other crippling factors.

India's traditional poverty is one of the major problems. The percentage of people living below the subsistence level is now lower than what it was some years ago, but even now about 45 crore persons, both rural and urban, are very poor, they do not get even two square meals a day and have neither adequate shelter nor even the minimum clothing to shield their bodies from the extremes of the weather. For the intense and soul-stirring poverty, the burgeoning population is mainly responsible. With its limited resources the country

finds it difficult to feed and clothe the teeming millions.

Most of our agriculture is still in a state of backwardness and leaves much to be desired. The result is inadequate production and low productivity, vast areas are still dependent on the monsoon. Drought conditions prevail in many regions whenever the rains are inadequate or not well distributed. The development of scientific irrigation is very slow. It is true that some of the States, such as Punjab, Haryana and parts of UP, produce good crops and contribute substantially to the Central foodgrains reserves (thanks to the Green Revolution and the modern techniques of farming, but vast areas remain untouched by the revolutionary technology).

In the field of industry also the progress is patchy and lop-sided. While in some fields there has been notable progress, in most others there has been stagnation. In fact, an official assessment conceded that 1991-92 was the worst year for industry.

The per capita income of the Indian people continues to be very low, no wonder the standard of living is wholly unsatisfactory. There are small pockets of affluence amidst a vast sea of people living in abominable conditions, without even the basic amenities of wholesome drinking water and plain food.

Then there is the unbearable debt burden. For decades millions of people have been groaning under the burden of debts. They find it difficult even to pay the interest, not to speak of clearing the principal amount.

To cap it all, there is the mass illiteracy, especially among women. Though several programmes have been launched to promote literacy, the progress is slow.

SHORT NOTES

Q. 6. Write short notes on:-

(i) Performance of cooperative rural credit system in India

(ii) Failure of land reforms in India

(iii) Parallel Economy

Ans (i) Cooperative Credit System: The large number of cooperative credit societies in the country have helped lakhs of farmers, landless labourers, artisans and other sections of rural people. Cooperative banks have been helpful in saving farmers from clutches of credit lenders.

Between 1960-61 and 1983-84 the membership of the cooperative societies increased by more than three times, the share capital of all types of cooperatives increased by more than fifteen times and the capital by more than 24 times. By far the largest number of societies are in the agricultural sector. Nearly 100 per cent of the rural areas are at present covered by cooperative credit societies. Universal membership has been accepted as the policy so far as primary agricultural societies are concerned so that people belonging to weaker sections should join the cooperatives and derive benefits in various ways. It is estimated that short-term lending for agricultural purposes exceeds Rs 2,500 crore.

In recent years there have been

many complaints of misappropriation and other malpractices. The comparatively well-off farmers have managed to corner a substantial part of cooperative society funds. Besides, the recoveries have been very poor. Investigators have found that among the defaulters of loans the larger landowners predominate. Bureaucratic indifference, collusion and political pressures account for the flaws in the cooperative credit system.

(ii) Failure of Land Reforms in India: Land reforms have remained one of the major policies for rural and economic development ever since the inception of the planning process. But the purpose of introducing land reforms has largely been defeated by the big landlords and other vested interests through fictitious divisions of land, mere paper entries in the records with the collusion of Patwaris and Tehsildars, the endless litigation, the "benami" transactions, fake ownership of holdings, frauds in land distribution and in "bhoodan" (waste areas and on which hardly anything can be grown) useless lands were donated to earn credit for donating land to the poor and the needy. Land reforms were intended to bring the largest number of poor farmers and agricultural workers into the mainstream of economic development. Recently, it was estimated that over 98 lakh tenants have acquired ownership rights on about 70 lakh hectares of land. But land ceiling laws have not proved effective.

Lakhs of acres of land were declared surplus, but the redistribution process has been very faulty and has not benefited the really needy sections. Interested parties have found ways of reaching the courts even though several legislative and administrative measures have been taken to insulate land reforms cases. About 15 lakh acres of land is under litigation and is not therefore available for distribution.

(iii) Parallel Economy: Along with the officially regulated economy

there is, in this country, a non-official, parallel one, functioning insidiously with black, unaccounted money the quantum of which was recently put at Rs 100,000 crore. Of course no precise estimate is possible, but its dimensions are certainly huge. This economy works in many arenas—smuggling, industry, commerce, trade, imports, exports and transport. The parallel economy which has countless patrons, yields high profits (no taxes are paid), seldom, if ever, does it lead to losses. But it does result in financial losses to the State exchequer because it implies tax and duty evasion, siphoning off of a good part of the honest people's money. It causes setbacks to normal economic activity.

The factors that contribute to the growth of black money and the success of parallel economy are the high rates of taxation, direct and indirect, economic policies such as licensing and controls (in recent months there has been considerable liberalisation and removal of controls and the licensing systems in various fields), the complex rules and regulations, the highly expensive Parliament and Assembly elections for which black money is inevitably used. Then there is the inefficient and corrupt administration. Besides the unchecked inflation (the soaring prices and the high cost of living, encourages "black" operations).

JOINT FAMILY SYSTEM

Q. 7. What changes are there in the joint family system in recent times. Does it still have a role to play in Indian society?

Ans. For centuries past a notable feature of the Indian social structure was the joint family system in which all the members were joint sharers in the common property and inheritance went by survivorship. The father or some other elder was the head but he functioned as a manager and not, as the old Roman "pater familias". But the joint family system is rapidly breaking up in this country, and also elsewhere. Individualistic

attitudes have been developing fast. As Jawaharlal Nehru put it, these attitudes lead not only to far-reaching changes in the economic background of life but also to new problems of behaviour.

Modern educated youth, by and large, are inclined to lead independent existence, especially after marriage. The general trend among married youth is to live away from their parents and in-laws, even though this practice involves considerable expenditure in the shape of house rent, water and electricity bills, the expenses of a separate kitchen, part-time or whole-time servant (which only the very rich people can afford these days) and miscellaneous items. There is a virtual craze for independent existence. The young men and women of today do not want any interference by the elders in their day-to-day life. They want to go about where they please, return home when they please, lead a social life of their own choice, have (and entertain) such friends as they prefer, watch TV and video as long as they please. Such complete independence is not possible when the parents and other elders live with them.

There is the generation gap which prevents the elder people and the younger set from living happily together. There is more of selfishness and less of discipline and obedience these days. There is a tendency to divide the family property and other assets. Daughters-in-law often persuade their husbands to demand their shares in the family property, sell it off and utilise the proceeds for buying a car or some other modern conveniences or luxuries which are not easy to get under the joint family system.

In the modern individualistic, divisive world the joint family system has hardly any role to play. Houses are mostly small and families prefer to live separately and manage their expenditure according to their means and resources. The joint family system is now outdated, although it has several advantages, individually and socially.

TEST OF REASONING—I

Which set of letters in the following questions is different from other sets?

1. (a) CATD ~~(b) SQUT~~
(c) KHML (d) XVZY
2. (a) GEJI (b) WUZX
~~(c) MKQN~~ (d) DBGE
3. (a) MIJG ~~(b) QPNL~~
(c) VUSP (d) XWUR
4. (a) CXWD (b) FUTG
(c) KPOL ~~(d) ISRJ~~
5. (a) MJLK ~~(b) WXYZ~~
(c) TQSR (d) FCED
6. (a) FBGE (b) NJOM
(c) JFKI ~~(d) SNTQ~~
7. ~~(a) YWIS~~ (b) RPNM
(c) GECB (d) LJHG
8. (a) TVRW (b) NPLQ
~~(c) CTAG~~ (d) LNJO

If, in the alphabetical order, A and C interchange places, B and D interchange places, then E and G interchange places and F and H do the same till only Y and Z are left; 'Y' is put at the end and 'Z' in the beginning;

9. Which would be the 15th letter from the beginning?

- (a) N ~~(b) O~~
~~(c) P~~ (d) Q

10. Which letter would be exactly in the middle of 21st letter from the beginning and 16th letter from the end?

- (a) M (b) K
(c) J (d) N

11. Letter 'Q' is between:

- (a) P and R ~~(b) T and R~~
(c) T and S (d) S and P

12. Which letter is to the left of 9th letter from last?

- (a) P (b) O
(c) Q ~~(d) N~~

13. How many pairs of letters in the word PERFECT have as many letters between them as in alphabetical order?

- (a) two (b) three
(c) four (d) five

The letters A to Z of the alphabet are given consec-

tive numerical values in a descending order so that the sum of numerical values of HOUR is 58. What will be the sum of the numerical values of the letters in the words given below:

14. BOND
(a) 89 (b) 85
(c) 73 (d) 81
15. TIDE
(a) 82 (b) 79
(c) 75 (d) 72

Directions: In each of the following questions, a pair of words has been given. Mark your answers:

- A. if one of them is the cause of the other.
- B. if one is the product of the other.
- C. if one is opposite of the other.
- D. if one of them belongs to the other.
- E. if one promotes the other.

16. training : efficiency
17. delay : embarrassment
18. crown : king
19. college : graduate
20. sun : constellation
21. nectar : poison
22. morphine : opium
23. gluttony : starvation
24. tears : sadness
25. flag : nation

Five points A, B, C, D and E lie on a line in the following manner:

A is 3" to the right of B.

E is 4" to the left of D and 5" to the right of B.

C is 8" to the right of A.

26. What is the length of the line?

- (a) 10" ~~(b) 11"~~
(c) 12" (d) 13"

27. Which two points are at the extreme ends?

- ~~(a) A and B~~ (b) A and E
(c) B and C (d) E and B

28. The distance between A and D is:

- (a) 4" (b) 5"
~~(c) 6"~~ (d) 7"

29. On a bridge under construction, no porter is allowed to take more than 100 kg weight at one time. Mani Ram wants his nine cartons to be taken to the other side. The cartons weigh as follows:

- | | |
|----------|--------------------|
| A 58 kg | B 69 kg |
| C 48 kg | D 24 kg |
| E. 16 kg | F 15 kg |
| G 25 kg | H 18 kg |
| I 26 kg | |

Mani Ram engages three porters and gives three cartons to each. The cartons are distributed according to which of the following sets?

- (a) ADE, BFI, CGH
 (b) ADI, BEG, CFH
 (c) ADH, BGI, CEF
~~(d) ADH, BEF, CGI~~

30 Four villages A, B, C and D lie along a straight road in such a way that the distance between B and D is double of the distance between B and C and the distance between D and A is the total of the distance between C B and BD. If the farthest villages C and A are at a distance of 12 km, what is the distance between A and B?

- (a) 3 km
~~(b) 10 km~~
 (c) 9 km
 (d) 8 km

31 A team of three boys and three girls (total 6) is to be selected from boys A, B, C, D and E and girls V, W, X, Y and Z.

- B and V must be together
 Z and W must be together
 C and A will not be with D
 V will not be with W
 X and Y will be together
 W will not be with V
 C must be with Z

The selected team would include

- (a) ABC VXY
 (b) BDF WVY
 (c) BDEXYZ
~~(d) BDI VXY~~

Each of the questions given below is followed by four alternatives one of which is the mirror image of the word given in question. Your task is to tick-mark the right choice:

(32) PRETEND

- (a) PRETEND
~~(b) PRETEND~~
~~(c) PRETEND~~
~~(d) PRETEND~~

(33) NATURE

- ~~(a) NATURE~~
 (b) NATURE
 (c) NATURE
 (d) NATURE

(34) BEHIND

- (a) BEHIND
~~(b) BEHIND~~
 (c) BEHIND
~~(d) BEHIND~~

(35) AMAZING

- (a) AMAZING
~~(b) AMAZING~~
~~(c) AMAZING~~
~~(d) AMAZING~~

In a family photograph of five persons, Sarla is on the left of Sheela and Mahesh is on the right of Nonu. Bipin and Mahesh have one person between them and Sarla and Nonu have two persons between them.

36. Which two persons are on extreme ends?

- (a) Nonu & Sarla
 (b) Sheela & Bipin
 (c) Bipin & Sarla
~~(d) Sarla & Mahesh~~

37. Who is exactly in the middle?

- ~~(a) Nonu~~
 (b) Bipin
 (c) Mahesh
~~(d) Sarla~~

A page in a geometry-book is full of illustrations of straight lines, angles, triangles and squares. The total number of figures is 24 and there are 55 lines. If the ratio of lines used in single lines and angles (two lines each) is 2 : 3 and the ratio of total lines used in triangles and squares is 3 : 4.

38. How many angles are there?

- (a) 6
 (b) 7
 (c) 8
 (d) 9

39. How many triangles are there?

- (a) 4
 (b) 5
 (c) 6
 (d) 8

40. Pointing to a woman X said to his friend, "she is my father's only daughter's brother's wife. Mr X is the lady's

- (a) brother
 (b) brother-in law
 (c) husband
 (d) father

Words in questions 41 to 47 are followed by their codes. Your task is to pick-up the right code for the letter enclosed in box.

41 P I A Y I N G

- (a) m
 (b) s
 (c) x
 (d) k
 (e) b
 (f) z
 (g) q

42 I I C I I O N

- (a) x
 (b) j
 (c) v
 (d) a
 (e) s
 (f) s
 (g) f

43 I H O U G H T

- (a) z
 (b) v
 (c) x
 (d) c
 (e) w
 (f) c
 (g) l

44 Y O U N G I R

- (a) l
 (b) z
 (c) v
 (d) j
 (e) s
 (f) w
 (g) m

45 P I C I U R I

- (a) x
 (b) v
 (c) l
 (d) w
 (e) b
 (f) y
 (g) a

46 H A N D F U L

- (a) t
 (b) q
 (c) w
 (d) k
 (e) t
 (f) c
 (g) s

47 R E A C H F D

- (a) k
 (b) v
 (c) y
 (d) c
 (e) l
 (f) t
 (g) a

If, according to a certain code:

'Parents are very strict' means 'This road is rough'

'Strict persons expect discipline' means 'My car is strong'

'Some persons are polite' means 'Rough people are strong'

'Parents expect polite behaviour' means 'People like this car'

48 What is the code word for 'rough'?

- (a) parents (b) are
(c) polite (d) strict

49 What does the word 'expect' mean?

- (a) my (b) car
(c) is (d) strong

50 The code for 'strong people' would be

- (a) some polite (b) some discipline
(c) discipline people (d) polite people

Five partners A, B, C, D and E started a small factory by depositing Rs 70,000. Their shares were as follows:

- A Rs 10,000 B Rs 12,000
C Rs 14,000 D Rs 16,000
E Rs 18,000

The factory remains open for 25 days each month and the income per day is Rs 560 which they share at the

end of the month in proportion to their share of deposit.

51 How much does D get per month?

- (a) Rs 2800 (b) Rs 2900
(c) Rs 3000 (d) Rs 3200

52 How much more does E get in comparison to B?

- (a) Rs 1600 (b) Rs 1400
(c) Rs 1200 (d) Rs 900

53 What is the ratio in the income of B and D?

- (a) 3 : 4 (b) 1 : 2 (c) 2 : 3 (d) 3 : 5

54 In how many months would they get back the money they invested?

- (a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 8

If the factory remained closed for six working days due to strike of the workers:

55 How much would A get that month?

- (a) Rs 1520 (b) Rs 1580
(c) Rs 1620 (d) Rs 1640

56 How much would E get that month?

- (a) Rs 2872 (b) Rs 2914
(c) Rs 2784 (d) Rs 2736

In the following equations, two signs have been interchanged. Your task is to find out these two signs so as to make the equation correct

$$57 \quad 5 + 8 - 6 \times 9 \div 3 = 50$$

- (a) - and + (b) - and ×
(c) × and - (d) + and

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58. $4 \times 5 - 12 + 4 + 1 = 22$

(a) + and -

(c) - and \times

59. $40 + 3 + 1 \times 3 - 26 = 15$

(a) + and -

(c) - and +

60. $32 + 4 \times 6 + 3 - 12 = 14$

(a) + and +

(c) \times and -

(b) + and +

(d) + and \times

(b) + and \times

(d) + and \times

(b) - and +

(d) \times and +

The basic salary of Rajendra is Rs 3300. He gets D.A. at the rate of 71% and house rent allowance at the rate of 20%. The city allowance is Rs 75. Rs 150 are deducted as State Insurance Premium and the Provident Fund deposits are deducted at the rate of 14.5% of the basic

salary rounded upto the next figure divisible by 10. Rs 8 are deducted for medical deposits.

61. How much money does Rajendra get in hand?

(a) Rs 5688

(b) Rs 5718

(c) Rs 5740

(d) Rs 5800

62. If he spends 20% on food, 25% as house-rent and 15% on children's education, how much is left for other expenses?

(a) Rs 2182

(b) Rs 3004

(c) Rs 2216

(d) Rs 2364

63. If H R A. is to be deducted from the money that he is paying for the house, how much extra is he paying?

(a) Rs 775

(b) Rs 815

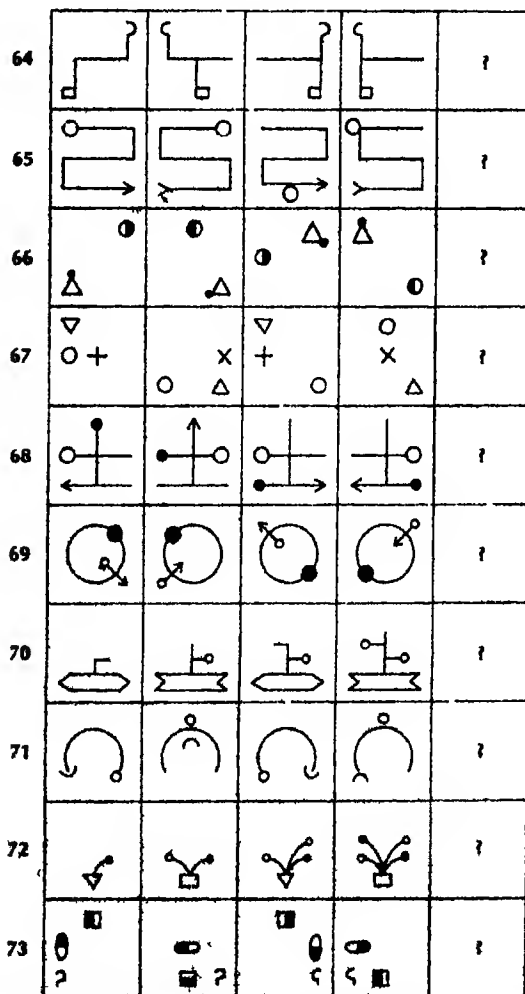
(c) Rs 795

(d) Rs 805

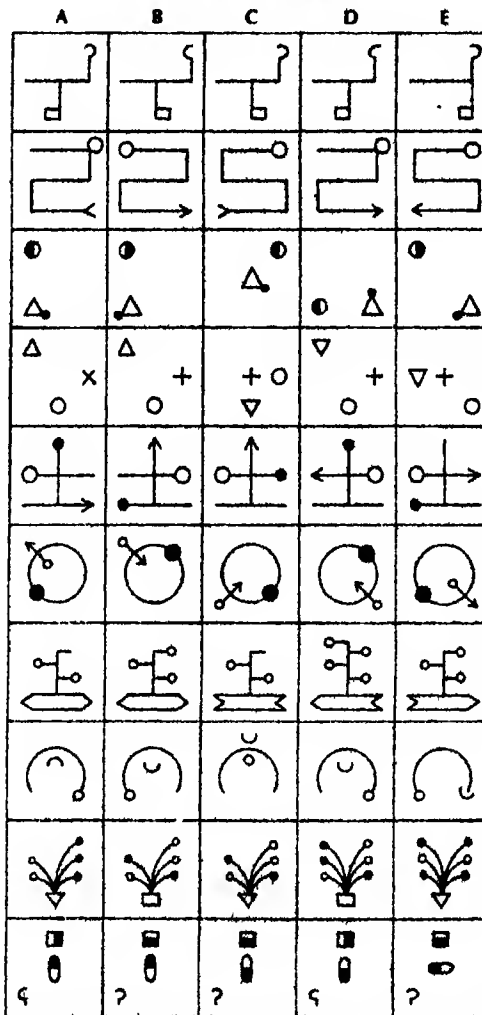
NON-VERBAL SERIES

Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures marked A, B, C, D and E. You have to decide which of the Answer Figures would fit in place of the question mark in the Problem Figures.

PROBLEM FIGURES



ANSWER FIGURES



ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

For solving questions 1 to 8, the method is to write the letters from A to Z and number them.

1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (d)
5. (b) 6. (d) 7. (a) 8. (c)
9. to 12.. The order of letters would be:
Z C D A B G H E F K L I J O P M N S T Q R W X U V Y.
9. (c) 10. (a) 11. (b)
12. (d) 13. (c) PR; FE; ON and IP
14. and 15 Start numbering A from 29.
14. (b) 15. (a) 16. E
17. A 18. D 19. B
20. D 21. C 22. B
23. C 24. A 25. D
26. (b) 27. (c) 28. (c)
29. (d) 30. (b) 31. (d)
32. (b) 33. (a) 34. (b)
35. (d)
36. and 37. The order is: left to right Sarla, Sheela, Bipin, Nonu, Mahesh.
36. (d) 37. (b)
38. and 39. The illustrations are 8 lines, 6 angles, 5 triangles and 5 squares.
38. (a) 39. (b) 40. (c)

For questions 41 to 50, pick up common letters/words and match them with common codes e.g. 'A' occurs in 41 and 47, so does 'K', check with other words as well. Or as in 42, 'I' is

repeated so is 'x' so x is the code for I.

41. (d) 42. (f) 43. (e) 44. (b)
45. (g) 46. (a) 47. (e) 48. (h)
49. (b) 50. (d) 51. (d) 52. (c)
53. (a) 54. (b) 55. (a) 56. (d)
57. (b) 58. (a) 59. (d) 60. (d)

61. to 63 Rajendra gets:
Pay Rs 3300
D.A. Rs 2343
H.R.A. Rs 660
C.A. Rs 75
Total Rs 6378

The deductions are:

State Insurance Rs 150
Provident Fund Rs 480
Medical Rs 8
Rs 638

61. (c) 62. (c) 63. (a)

For answering questions 64 to 73, study each individual figure carefully and observe its movement, the pace, the direction and rotation. Sometimes, one part is dropped or added. Also observe the relation among different figures in the box.

64. A 65. D 66. B 67. D
68. C 69. E 70. A 71. D
72. C 73. B

IAS (Mains)

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TEST OF REASONING—II

Find the odd-man out:

1. (a) link
(b) hook
(c) chain
(d) relation
(e) connection
2. (a) initial
(b) signature
(c) primary
(d) early
(e) beginning
3. (a) costume
(b) attire
(c) frock
(d) dress
(e) outfit
4. (a) dragon
(b) mammoth
(c) dinosaur
(d) crocodile
(e) alligator
5. (a) Gemini
(b) Scorpio
(c) Pisces
(d) Zodiac
(e) Taurus
6. (a) hedgehog
(b) yak
(c) mongoose
(d) fox
(e) beaver
7. (a) Pilot
(b) Admiral
(c) Commander
(d) Lieutenant
(e) Captain
8. (a) grain
(b) stone
(c) metre
(d) pound
(e) kilogram
9. bark : tree
(a) mew : cat
(b) pen : paper
(c) flower : petal
(d) skin : potatoes
10. chloroform : anaesthetic
(a) injection : blood
(b) physics : subject
(c) operation : theatre
(d) hospital : cure
11. embarrassment : perplexity
(a) shy : blush
(b) action : hesitation
(c) mood : anger
(d) pain : infection
12. shorthand : stenographer
(a) beauty : beautician
(b) money : economist
(c) engine : engineer
(d) serving : bearer
13. condolence : felicitations
(a) unlawful : legal
(b) sympathy : comfort
(c) emotion : outburst
(d) love : affection
14. shabby : dirty
(a) clean : hygienic
(b) food : eat
(c) savage : wild
(d) rain : flood
15. stage : performance
(a) road : footpath
(b) arena : wrestler
(c) bed : sleep
(d) orchestra : music
16. music : ear
(a) food : stomach
(b) scent : nose
(c) dance : feet
(d) book : language

In questions given below, the pair of words are made according to a definite relationship. Your task is to pick up the pair with similar relationship from (a), (b), (c) and (d).

9. bark : tree
(a) mew : cat
(b) pen : paper

Match sets of words in questions 17-20 with A, B, C, and D according to relations among the words of the set. The order of words is of no importance.

17. rose . petal . flower
(A) magazine : paper : book
18. bread : cake : biscuits
(B) studies : classroom : school
19. cow : monkey . tail
(C) axe : hammer : knife
20. home : food : kitchen
(D) furniture : table : top

In questions given below, the words that follow the lead word have a definite relationship with the lead word. Only one of them is different. Your task is to find this odd-man out.

21. TERRACE
 - (a) ERA
 - (b) TEA
 - (c) RACE
 - (d) TRACE
 - (e) TEAR
22. ABSENCE
 - (a) BASE
 - (b) SCENE
 - (c) SENSE
 - (d) CASE
 - (e) CEASE
23. DEFINITION
 - (a) DEFINE
 - (b) NOTED
 - (c) DEFINITE
 - (d) INFANT
 - (e) NATION
24. INVESTIGATE
 - (a) INVITE
 - (b) STAGE
 - (c) INTIMATE
 - (d) STATE
 - (e) GIVE
25. PROSPEROUS
 - (a) PROPOSE
 - (b) ROPE
 - (c) POROUS
 - (d) PURPOSE
 - (e) SUPPRESS

Three ladies, Asha, Nirmala and Manju are married to Trilok, Shiv and Jag Mohan. Each couple has one son, their names being Akash, Saurabh and Gaurav.

Jag Mohan is not Gaurav's father.

Nirmala is not Shiv's wife

Asha is not Akash's mother or Trilok's wife

Shiv is not Gaurav or Saurabh's father

26. Who are Saurabh's parents?
 - (a) Jag Mohan and Nirmala
 - (b) Trilok and Nirmala
 - (c) Trilok and Manju
 - (d) Jag Mohan and Asha
27. One of the parents of Gaurav is:
 - (a) Nirmala
 - (b) Asha
 - (c) Manju
 - (d) Shiv

28. If Saurabh and Gaurav are cousins, which of the following statements is true?

- (a) Manju and Asha are sisters.
- (b) Nirmala and Manju are sisters.

- (c) Jag Mohan and Trilok are brothers.
- (d) Trilok and Manju are brother and sister.

Four friends Amar, Bhuvan, Chandan and Dhruv are posted at Allahabad, Baroda, Calcutta and Dehradun. Match the right parts on the basis of the information given below:

First letters of the names and names of the cities are not common.

Bhuvan and Dhruv are not posted at Calcutta.
Chandan is not posted at Baroda or Allahabad.

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 29. Amar | (A) Allahabad |
| 30. Bhuvan | (B) Baroda |
| 31. Chandan | (C) Calcutta |
| 32. Dhruv | (D) Dehradun |

SYLLOGISMS

TYPE I

In questions given below, a situation has been explained in a few statements followed by a conclusion. You have to say whether the conclusion

- (a) necessarily follows from the statements.
- (b) is only a long drawn one
- (c) definitely does not follow from the statements
- (d) is doubtful as the data provided is inadequate

Note: Your answers should only be in the light of the statements given.

Statements:

33. 1. In news bulletins on Doordarshan, the items are usually read by one woman and one man
2. The main points were read by a woman

Conclusion: The next part would be covered by a man

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

34. 1. Indian dolls are very popular abroad.
2. They are dressed up in different Indian costumes.

Conclusion: Foreigners are very fond of Indian costumes.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

35. 1. Haunted places attract adventure seekers
2. Mukesh and Sukesh love adventures.

Conclusion: They have been to many haunted places.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

36. 1. Only Yogis have supernatural power.
2. Anand possesses supernatural power.

Conclusion: Anand is a Yogi.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

37. 1. Some decades back tuberculosis was incurable.
2. Many patients died of typhoid too.
3. Now these diseases are curable.

4. AIDS is incurable at present.

Conclusion: It will be curable during coming years.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements:

38. 1. Most of the modern movies are based on sentimental love-stories.
2. Such modern movies are very popular with the young audience.

Conclusion: Love-stories appeal to the young people.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements.

39. 1. Judo is gaining a lot of popularity all over the world
2. Judo originated in the Far East.
3. It is an art of defending oneself barehanded

Conclusion The Western people are fed up with carrying arms for self-defence

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

Statements

40. 1. Books on travels have always fascinated readers
2. These books are a record of unique experiences of great travellers

Conclusion Readers love to share the experiences of travellers

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐

TYPE II

In questions given below, a statement is followed by Implications I and II. Imply I and II to the statement and tick-mark your answers as under

- (a) Only I is implicit.
(b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Both I and II are implicit.
(d) Either I or II is implicit
(e) Neither I nor II is implicit.

Statement:

41. A man's body was found on the railway track

Implications.

- I. He had committed suicide.
II. It was an accident.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

42. The leading opposition party of country X is demanding the Prime Minister's resignation.

Implications:

- I. It is a political stunt.
II. The Prime Minister is not worthy to hold such responsible post.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

43. The terrorists threatened the members of a family but they did not report to the police.

Implications:

- I. They had no faith in protection of the police.
II. They were not afraid of the threatenings.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

44. The doctors had claimed that small-pox has been eradicated but some cases have been reported lately.

Implications:

- I. The doctors were telling a lie.
II. It is impossible to eradicate a disease.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement.

45. Liquor tragedies are claiming more and more victims in different parts of the country.

Implications

- I The unlicensed liquor is sometimes adulterated.
II Drunkards go for any stuff irrespective of its brand or quality.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

46. The arrest of two journalists was condemned and criticized by all newspapers.

Implications.

- I The journalists had not committed any legal offence.
II. The other journalists do not allow one of their colleagues to be caught by the police.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

47. The bride of Ravi did not bring a penny with her although she belonged to a very well-of family.

Implications:

- I. She married Ravi against the wishes of her family.
II. Ravi and his parents are against dowry.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

48. Some men do not want to get married

Implications

- I. They do not want to bargain their bachelorhood freedom with matrimonial responsibilities and bindings.
II. Women do not attract them.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE III

In making decisions about important questions, it is desirable to be able to distinguish between strong arguments and weak arguments so far as they are related to the question. Weak arguments may not be directly related to the question, may be of minor importance or may be related to some trivial aspect of the question. Each question given below is followed by two argu-

ments numbered I and II. You have to decide which of the arguments is strong and which is weak; then decide which of the answers given below and numbered (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) is the correct answer.

- (a) Only I is strong.
- (b) Only II is strong.
- (c) Both I and II are strong.
- (d) Either I or II is strong.
- (e) Neither I nor II is strong.

49. A barber shaves all those and only those who do not shave themselves. Will he shave himself?

- I. Yes, since he shaves all those who do not shave themselves.
- II. No, if he only shaves those who do not shave themselves, how can he shave himself.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

50. Do lunatics who turn violent need hospitalisation?

- I. Yes, proper treatment for such patients is only available in hospitals.
- II. No, staff in such hospitals lack kindness and sympathy.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

51. Are programmes on STAR TV superior to programmes telecast on our Doordarshan?

- I. Yes, everyone says so.

II. No, people in general do not understand them.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

52. Workers of a certain factory are not paid properly. Will they go on a strike?

- I. Yes, they can only get their rights by going on a strike and paralysing the production.
- II. No, they cannot afford to go hungry for an indefinite period.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

53. Do drug addicts get rid of their habit?

- I. Yes, a proper treatment and strong will power can save their life.
- II. No, old friends and addiction prove too strong.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

54. Should children be allowed to see violence in movies?

- I. Yes, it turns them into tough guys.
- II. No, violence either frightens or creeps into their tender minds.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

55. Do Bharat Utsavs in foreign countries promote better cultural understanding?

- I. Yes, the foreigners get a closer glimpse of our cultural heritage through these Utsavs.
- II. No, they are just a waste of money.



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24/82

The Chairman

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE IV

In questions given below, Statements 1 and 2 are followed by Conclusions I and II. Taking the Statements to be true although they may appear at variance with commonly accepted facts, tick-mark your answers as under

- (a) Only I follows.
- (b) Only II follows.
- (c) Both I and II follow.
- (d) Either I or II follows
- (e) Neither I nor II follows

Statements:

56. 1. Gayatri is taller than Hansa who is taller than Indra.
2. Fatima is taller than Hansa but shorter than Jamuna who is not as tall as Gayatri.

Conclusions:

- I. Gayatri is the tallest.
- II. Indra is the shortest

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements:

57. 1. Ajay made 6 runs less than Dinesh and 6 runs more than Bhaskar
2. Chandrakant made 8 runs less than one fifth of the total score of 155 runs.

Conclusions:

- I. Dinesh made 50 runs.
- II. Bhaskar made 36 runs

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements:

58. 1. All bulbs are torches
2. All torches are candles.

Conclusions:

- I. All candles are bulbs.
- II. All bulbs are candles

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements:

59. 1. Some thieves are murderers
2. Only murderers are pick-pockets.

Conclusions:

- I. Some thieves are pick-pockets
- II. Some murderers are not thieves.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements:

60. 1. All buildings are cottages.
2. Some cottages are hostels.

Conclusions:

- I. Some hostels are buildings.
- II. All hostels are cottages.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements:

61. 1. Some books are toys.
2. All toys are dolls.

Conclusions:

- I. All dolls are toys.
- II. Some books are dolls.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements:

62. 1. Only those patients were taken to hospital who were not taken to museum.
2. Only tall patients were allowed in museum.

Conclusions:

- I. No patient in hospital was tall.
- II. Some patients were tall in museum.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

TYPE V

The membership of a very reputed Club is given according to the rules given below. Apply the rules to those who have applied for membership and tick-mark the right choice from (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E).

1. The membership is only allotted to class one officers and businessmen with foreign concerns. The owner has a special right to allot membership to private doctors and lawyers who earn atleast Rs 20000 per month. The Management Committee gives special privilege to players who have represented India in International Events.
2. Members must be citizen of India, however, the owner allows Indians who have settled in foreign countries to become member of the Club.
3. There should be no scandal attached to the name of the member. If there had been a scandal but the Court ruled it out, then the Management Committee gives the person concerned Membership of the Club.
4. The person, willing to become a member of the Club must be introduced by one of persons who is already a member of that Club or by some M.L.A.

Mark your answers as under:

- A. The Membership was automatically given.
- B. The Owner of the Club recommended the case.
- C. The Management Committee recommended the candidate
- D. No decision was taken as information was lacking.
- E. The membership was denied.

63. Mr Ambani is an Indian businessman. He deals in jewellery and has his concern in Hong Kong. He was introduced by another member of the Club. There was some business scandal attached to his name but it was cleared by the Court.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

64. Mr Bhargav is a very good player of hockey. He has his business concern in U.S.A. He had a letter of intro-

duction from the local M I A

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

65 Dr Chandran has letter of introduction from one of the members of the Club. He is an Indian and a class one officer. He has a clean reputation.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

66 Miss David, the famous player of table-tennis has represented India at many International events. There was some scandal attached to her name but was found baseless by the Court. She is a citizen of India and has letter of introduction from an M I A.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

67 Madam Ellen, a very famous doctor in U K with a monthly income of Rs 50000 is a citizen of U K. She has a very good reputation and has letter of introduction from another doctor, a member of the Club.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

68 Mr Farooq, a businessman from Iran has no scandal against him and was introduced by a member of the Club. He is a millionaire.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

69 The famous Indian lawyer Mr Gupta, with an income of Rs 28000 per month was introduced by an M I A. He is fighting against a scandal involving him and his secretary.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

70 Madam Harrison, an Indian business woman has several carpet industries and has a lovely showroom in Australia. She was a national player of basket-ball and has no scandals attached to her name.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

71 Mr Iqbal, the famous Indian player of basket-ball, who represented India in many countries, has a letter of introduction from an M I A. There is a scandal attached to his name which he says is quite baseless.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

72 Dr Jain is a doctor of philosophy with good research work. Indian by birth, he is a good player of Tennis and has an income of Rs 30000 from his farm. He has a letter of introduction from one of the members of the Club.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- 1 (b) All the others are used for joining two parts or bringing them together.
- 2 (b) All the others mean the same.
- 3 (c) It is a specific item among general terms.
- 4 (a) It is the only creature of imagination among the real ones.
- 5 (d) All the others are signs of Zodiac.
- 6 (b) It is the only domestic creature among wild animals.

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7. (a) A pilot need not be on defence staff like others.
8. (c) All the others are units of weight.
9. (d) The relationship is that of outer cover and the item to which it belongs.
10. (b) One is an item of the other.
11. (a) The other is a natural reaction of the first
12. (d) One must know the first one to become the other.
13. (a) The words are opposites.
14. (c) They mean the same.
15. (c) One is used for another.
16. (b) The relationship is that of the item and sense-organ to which it appeals.
17. D
18. C
19. A
20. B
21. (e) The letters used are from the lead word and their sequence does not change except in this one
22. (c) One 'S' is extra as the word has only one 'S'.
23. (b) All the other words have one letter which is not from the lead word. This one has none.
24. (c) This is the only word with one letter 'M' that does not occur in the lead word
25. (e) One 'S' is extra.
26. (d)
27. (a)
28. (c)
29. (c)
30. A
31. B
32. D
33. (d) The word 'usually' makes the conclusion doubtful
34. (b) It is only an assumption, there could be other reasons as well, hence, a long drawn conclusion
35. (d) The type of adventure is not specified.
36. (a) The conclusion drawn is the right one
37. (b) The conclusion is based on two examples only.
38. (a) The conclusion is self-explanatory.
39. (c) The conclusion is incoherent.
40. (a) The conclusion is quite a natural one.
41. (d)
42. (d)
43. (a)
44. (e)
45. (c)
46. (a)
47. (d)
48. (a)
49. (e)
50. (a)
51. (e)
52. (c)

53. (d)
54. (b)
55. (a)
56. (c)



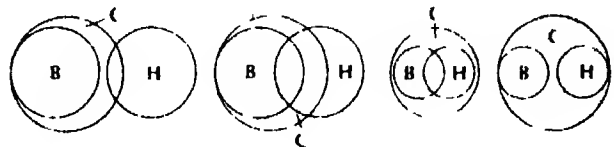
57. (a) A--44, B--38, C--23; D--50.
58. (b)



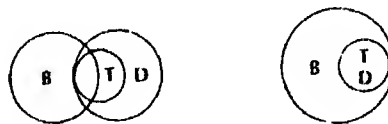
59. (a)



60. (e)



61. (b)



62. C
63. C
64. D
65. A
66. C
67. B
68. B
69. E
70. D
71. F
72. E

Quantitative Aptitude

The questions given in this feature were set in the Reserve Bank of India, grade "A" examination held recently.

We are grateful to Shri Govind Singh Nirban of Jaipur for sending these questions to us.

Q. 1-10. Out of the four suggested answers given below each question which should replace the (?) question mark?

1. 45% of 40 - 20% of ? + 2
(a) 40 (b) 80 (c) 60 (d) 75
(e) None of these
2. $? \times .019 = .0361$
(a) .19 (b) 1.09 (c) 1.9 (d) 19
(e) None of these
3. $7\frac{1}{7} \times 4\frac{2}{3} + 15\frac{1}{3} = ?$
(a) $2\frac{4}{23}$ (b) $7\frac{3}{22}$ (c) $2\frac{5}{16}$ (d) $7\frac{4}{16}$
(e) None of these
4. $66033 + 33 + 13 \times 22 = ?$
(a) 2187 (b) 2084 (c) 2480 (d) 2287
(e) None of these
5. $27948 + 3489 + 726 = ?$
(a) 32163 (b) 30323 (c) 31613 (d) 29163
(e) None of these
6. $? \% \text{ of } 218 = 3\frac{1}{3} \times 3.270$
(a) 2.5 (b) 5 (c) 10 (d) 15
(e) 25
7. $89100 \div 198 - 800 = ?$
(a) 200 (b) 250 (c) 300 (d) 130
(e) 350
8. $\frac{3}{5} \text{ of } (10\sqrt{9} + 25) = ?$
(a) 40 (b) 15 (c) 30 (d) 156
(e) 33
9. $100 \div 10 + 990 = ?$
(a) 1000 (b) 100 (c) 111 (d) .111
(e) None of these
10. $43616 + 17520 + 38914 = ?$
(a) 80,000 (b) 100,000 (c) 90,000
(d) 1,00,050 (e) 95,000

Q. 11-15. In each of the following number series, a wrong number is given. Find out that number.

11. 5, 6, 14, 45, 183, 925, 5556
(a) 6 (b) 14 (c) 45 (d) 183
(e) 925
12. 496, 242, 116, 54, 24, 8, 4
(a) 24 (b) 116 (c) 54 (d) 24
(e) 8
13. 3, 4, 8, 17, 33, 55, 94
(a) 4 (b) 8 (c) 17 (d) 33
(e) 55
14. 7, 10, 14, 28, 52, 100, 196
(a) 10 (b) 14 (c) 28 (d) 52
(e) 100

- (e) 100
15. 9359, 1558, 311, 77, 25, 12, 12
(a) 1558 (b) 311 (c) 77 (d) 25
(e) 12

16. Two students fought a college election. The winning student got 60% of the total votes and won the election by 144 votes only. What was the total number of votes polled?

- (a) 720 (b) 480 (c) 360 (d) 240
(e) None of these

17. A's salary is 35% of B's salary. B's salary is 40% of C's salary. The total salary of all the three is Rs 19,250. What is the difference between the salary of A and B?

- (a) 3250 (b) 3500 (c) 325 (d) 7500
(e) None of these

18. In a factory there are some supervisors and some labourers. On their silver jubilee function, 2 shirts to each labourer and one shirt and one pant to each supervisor are distributed. If, in all, 220 shirts and 20 pants are distributed, what is the total number of workmen in the factory?

- (a) 100 (b) 110 (c) 120
(d) cannot be determined (e) None of these

19. When there is an increase of 30% in the price of T.V. sets and decrease of 20% in the number of sets sold, then what is percentage effect on total sales?

- (a) 4% loss (b) 8% loss (c) 4% gain (d) 8% gain
(e) None of these

20. A book contains 50% pages in white, and 40% of the remaining pages in green. Balance 150 pages are in yellow. How many green pages are there in the book?

- (a) 100 (b) 250 (c) 150 (d) 500
(e) None of these

21. Ramesh purchased 4 pens and 3 pencils for Rs 46. Rahul purchased 3 pens and 5 pencils from the same trader at the same rate for the same amount. What is the price of 1 pencil?

- (a) 2.00 (b) 4.00 (c) 1.50
(d) cannot be determined (e) None of these

22. If $8 @ 22 - 53 \Delta 7 = 2905$, then find the value of @.

- (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3
(d) cannot be determined (e) None of these

23. A sum of money is to be divided among A, B and C in the ratio of 2 : 3 : 5. If total share of A and B is Rs 1500 more than A's share, then find out C's share.

- (a) 1000 (b) 1500 (c) 2500
(d) cannot be determined (e) None of these

24. How many pairs of numbers are there in between 1 and 49, the total of each of which comes to 50?

- (a) 22 (b) 21 (c) 20 (d) 26
(e) None of these

25. One-third of a two-digit number is more than one-fifth of that number by 5. What is the difference between these two digits?

- (a) 60 (b) 45 (c) 75

(d) cannot be determined (e) None of these

26. To collect Rs 1,000 as fund to help drought-hit persons, each passenger in a bus donated as much money as there were passengers in the bus. In order to complete the target, the bus conductor contributed an amount not as per number of passengers in the bus but Rs 39. How many passengers were there in the bus?

(a) 32 (b) 30 (c) 25

(d) cannot be determined (e) None of these

27. The length of a 27 sq metre field is three times its breadth. What approximate time it will take to walk all the four sides of its boundary at the rate of 2 km per hour.

(a) 30 sec (b) 34 sec (c) 20 sec (d) 25 sec
(e) 43 sec

28-32. In the table given below, the production figure of T.V. sets in different factories from the year 1986 to 1991 is shown. Study the table carefully and answer the questions given below based on it.

Year	Yearly production of T.V. sets in different type of factories				
	A	B	C	D	E
1986	25	16	32	8	19
1987	17	18	40	7	9
1988	15	27	39	9	10
1989	12	23	41	13	11
1990	20	14	40	5	21
1991	21	12	46	4	18

28. What was the decrease percentage of production of T.V. sets in D-type factories in 1991 as compared to 1990?

(a) 20% (b) 25% (c) 50% (d) 80%
(e) None of these

29. What is the ratio of production of T.V. sets in A-type factory in 1990 and production in same type of factories in 1986 and 1988?

(a) 1 : 2 (b) 2 : 3 (c) 1 : 1 (d) 1 : 4
(e) None of these

30. What is the percentage of number of T.V. sets produced in 1986 as compared to average number of T.V. sets produced during 1986-1991?

(a) 16.8% (b) 15% (c) 20% (d) 21%
(e) 25%

31. In which of the given years, there was maximum number of production of T.V. sets?

(a) 1986 (b) 1991 (c) 1988
(d) 1990 (e) 1987

32. In which factory there was maximum production in all the given years?

(a) A (b) B (c) D (d) E
(e) None of these

33. Weight of A, B and C is in the ratio of 8 : 7 : 5 respectively. A's weight is 30% more than B's. To know the weight of C, what information, out of the two items X and Y given below, is essential?

(X) total weight of A, B and C

(Y) weight of any one of A, B or C

(a) Only X is essential
(b) Only Y is essential
(c) Either X or Y is essential
(d) Neither X nor Y is essential
(e) Even both X and Y together are not essential

34. The present ratio of ages of Sucheta and Sheikhar is 7 : 8. What will be the ratio of their ages after 5 years?

(a) 12 : 13 (b) 7 : 8 (c) 2 : 3
(d) cannot be determined (e) None of these

35. Rakesh purchased 16 kg of wheat at Rs 9.40 per kg and 25 kg wheat at Rs 8.50 per kg. After mixing the two quantities, he sold the stock at Rs 8.90 per kg. How much he gained or lost in the whole transaction?

(a) loss Rs 2 (b) No profit, no loss (c) gain Rs 2
(d) loss Rs 7.50 (e) gain Rs 10

36. If one-fourth of a number is 72, then what will be its two-third?

(a) 54 (b) 96 (c) 132 (d) 64
(e) None of these

37. A shopkeeper sells some articles taking profit of 20% on the cost price. To arrive at the correct figure of gain, which of the following information is essential?

(X) Cost price of the articles
(Y) Selling price of the articles

(a) Only X is essential
(b) Only Y is essential
(c) Both X and Y are together essential
(d) Either X or Y is essential
(e) Neither X nor Y is essential

38. A and B can complete a work separately in 6 and 3 days respectively. If both are asked to complete the work together, how much time they will take to finish the same work?

(a) 4 days (b) 5 days (c) 9 days (d) 7 days
(e) None of these

39. Two years ago, Ramesh's age was half of Suresh's age. If the ratio of present ages of the two is 3 : 5, what is the difference of their present ages?

(a) 16 (b) 10 (c) 12 (d) 8
(e) None of these

40. Population of a town increases at the rate of 3% per year. If the population of that town in 1990 was 60,000, then what will be its estimated population in 1992?

(a) 61800 (b) 63600 (c) 63650
(d) 62650

41. Simple interest on Rs 25000 for the first 2 years is 6% per annum and after 2 years, the rate of interest is 9% per annum. If this sum is given on interest for 5 years and the rate of income-tax on interest earned above Rs 2500 is equal to 20% of the sum, then what amount of income-tax is to be paid on it?

(a) 10750 (b) 8250 (c) 2150 (d) 1650
(e) None of these

42. The sum of a two-digit number is 7 and their product is 12. What is the difference between these two digits?

(a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 1
(d) cannot be determined (e) None of these

43. Train A running at 60 km/hour crosses train B coming from the opposite direction in 30 seconds. To find

out the length of train B, which of the two conditions out of X and Y is necessary to know?

- (X) length of train A
(Y) speed of train B
(a) Only X is necessary
(b) Only Y is necessary
(c) Either X or Y is necessary
(d) Neither X nor Y is necessary
(e) Even X and Y both together are not necessary

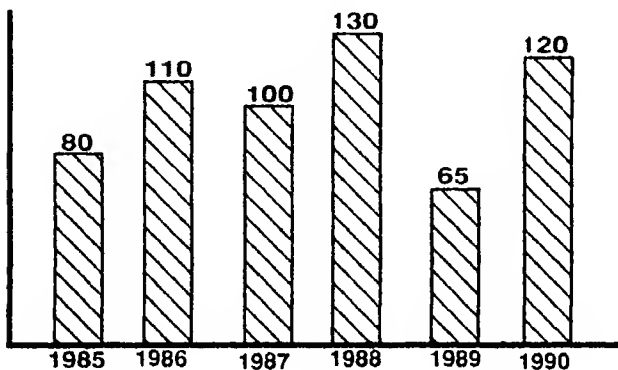
44 Partap's marks obtained in Hindi are less by 20 obtained in English. If total marks obtained by him in all the three subjects - English, Hindi and Arithmetic are 275, then to find out marks obtained by him in Arithmetic, which of the two conditions X and Y are essential to know?

- (X) Maximum marks to be given in each subject
(Y) Marks obtained in Hindi and English
(a) Only X is necessary
(b) Only Y is necessary
(c) X and Y together are necessary
(d) Either X or Y is necessary
(e) Neither X nor Y is necessary

45 All the 35 students of a class including its class teacher were to contribute equal amount each for a picnic fund. The school agreed to contribute one fourth part of the required fund. If the total fund required was Rs 4200, then what was the share of each student in that contribution?

- (a) 87.50 (b) 116.67 (c) 90
(d) cannot be determined (e) None of these

46-50. In the graph given below wheat production is shown in 1000 tonnes. Answer the questions based on it.



46 What is the percentage increase in production of wheat in 1986 as compared to 1985?

- (a) 45 (b) 37.5 (c) 52 (d) 51
(e) None of these

47 The production of which year is 50% of the production of 1985 and 1990?

- (a) 1985 (b) 1987 (c) 1989 (d) 1990
(e) None of these

48 If in 1991, production of wheat is more than the yearly average of given years, then what is the minimum production in 1991?

- (a) 1,04,000 tonnes (b) 1,34,000 tonnes
(c) 1,21,000 tonnes (d) 1,00,900 tonnes

(c) None of these

49 The production of how many years is more than the average production?

- (a) 3 (b) 2 (c) 1 (d) 4

(e) None of these

50 How many times is the total production of years with even number more than the total production of years with odd number?

- (a) 1.8 (b) 8 (c) 2.5 (d) 3.3
(e) None of these

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (a) 4 (d)
5 (a) 6 (b) 7 (c) 8 (c)
9 (a) 10 (d)

11 (d) The series is

$$5 \times 1 + 1 - 6, 6 \times 2 + 2 - 14, 11 \times 3 + 3 - 45$$

$$45 \times 4 + 4 - 184, 184 \times 5 + 5 - 925$$

So 183 is wrong. It should be 184

12 (c) The series is

$$1 \times 2 + 2 - 10, 10 \times 2 + 4 - 24, 24 \times 2 + 6 - 54,$$

$$54 \times 2 + 8 - 116, 116 \times 2 + 10 - 242$$

$$242 \times 2 + 12 - 496$$

So 5 is wrong. It should be 10

13 (c) The series is

$$3 + (1 \times 1) - 4, 4 + (2 \times 2) - 8, 8 + (3 \times 3) - 17$$

$$17 + (4 \times 4) - 33, 33 + (5 \times 5) - 58, 58 + (6 \times 6) - 94$$

So 55 is wrong. It should be 58

14 (b) The series is

$$7 \times 2 - 4 - 10, 10 \times 2 - 4 - 16, 16 \times 2 - 4 - 28$$

$$28 \times 2 - 4 - 52, 52 \times 2 - 4 - 100, 100 \times 2 - 4 - 196$$

So 14 is wrong. It should be 16

15 (a) The series is

$$12 \times 1 + 0 - 12, 12 \times 2 + 1 - 25, 25 \times 3 + 2 - 77,$$

$$77 \times 4 + 3 - 311, 311 \times 5 + 4 - 1559,$$

$$1559 \times 6 + 5 - 9359$$

So 1558 is wrong. It should be 1559

16 (a)

17 (a) Suppose C's salary = Rs 100

Then B's = Rs 40

A's = 35% of 40 = 14

Total of A, B and C's salaries = 154

Diff. of A's and B's salary = 40 - 14 = 26

If diff. is 26, total salaries = 154

If diff. is 19,250, total salaries

$$= 19250 \times \frac{26}{154} = \text{Rs } 3250$$

18 (c)

19 (c) 20 (a)
21 (d) But if Rahul purchased 8 pencils instead of 5, then the answer would be (a)

22 (b) 8222 5317 2905 23 (c) 24 (e) Ans 24

25 (d) 26 (c) Ans 31 27 (c) 28 (d)

29 (a) 30 (a) 31 (b) 32 (c)

33 (c) In the given ratio 8 : 7 : 5, A's weight cannot be 30% more than B's

34 (d) 35 (c)

37 (d) 38 (e)

39 (e) Two years ago Ramesh's age = 4 years,

Suresh's age = 6 years

Present age = 6 years + 10 years (3 : 5)

Difference = 4 Ans

40 (c) 41 (c)

42 (c) The two-digit number is 43*

43 (e) 44 (b)

47 (b) 48 (d)

50 (e) Ans 1 469

GENERAL AWARENESS

The questions given below were set in the General Awareness paper on Indian History and Culture in the 38th combined competitive examination held on the 24th May, 1992 by Bihar Public Service Commission

We are grateful to Shri Vijay Kumar of Daltonganj (Palamu) for sending these questions to us

- 1 Harappan seals were made of
 - (a) Terracotta (b) copper
 - (c) Iron (d) Lead
- 2 Mohenjodaro was excavated in the year
 - (a) 1921 (b) 1922
 - (c) 1931 (d) 1935
- 3 Which animal had no mention in the Indus Valley Civilization
 - (a) Cow
 - (b) Elephant
 - (c) Horse
 - (d) Goat
- 4 Aryans originally came from
 - (a) Central Asia
 - (b) North India
 - (c) South India
 - (d) Central India
- 5 Harappa is situated on
 - (a) river Ravi
 - (b) river Saraswati
 - (c) Plains of river Sindhu
 - (d) Bhogwa river Plain
- 6 An image of dancing girl is found at
 - (a) Kalibangan
 - (b) Mohenjodaro
 - (c) Harappa
 - (d) Ropar
- 7 The Harappan people worshipped
 - (a) Shiva
 - (b) Pashupati
 - (c) Vishnu
 - (d) Mother Goddess
- 8 The system of governing of Indus Valley Civilization was probably
 - (a) Democracy
 - (b) Monarchy
 - (c) Dictatorship
 - (d) Kingship
- 9 The age of early Vedic period

15

- (a) 2000-1500 B.C.
 - (b) 1500-1000 B.C.
 - (c) 1500-500 B.C.
 - (d) 1000-500 B.C.
- 10 Atharva Veda deals with
 - (a) charms and spells to ward off evils and diseases
 - (b) Hymns and rituals
 - (c) Prayers to Shiva
 - (d) Medical treatment
- 11 Buddha's death occurred in
 - (a) 460 B.C. (b) 483 B.C.
 - (c) 490 B.C. (d) 486 B.C.
- 12 Buddha denounced
 - (a) Jainism
 - (b) Nature worship
 - (c) Humanism
 - (d) Brahminism
- 13 Buddhist literatures were written in
 - (a) Prakrit (b) Pali
 - (c) Sanskrit (d) Tamil
- 14 Third Buddhist Council was held during the reign of
 - (a) Ashoka
 - (b) Kanishka
 - (c) Bindusara
 - (d) Apastashatru
- 15 Alexander Invaded India in
 - (a) 340 B.C. (b) 360 B.C.
 - (c) 240 B.C. (d) 326 B.C.
- 16 Mauryas were the rulers of
 - (a) Kosala
 - (b) Kanshambr
 - (c) Magadha
 - (d) Varshali
- 17 Bindusara succeeded
 - (a) Harsha
 - (b) Chandragupta Maurya
 - (c) Ashoka
 - (d) Ajatshatru
- 18 Manu Smriti deals with
 - (a) Economics
 - (b) Politics
 - (c) Medicines
 - (d) Law
- 19 Chandragupta Maurya defeated
 - (a) Seleucus
 - (b) Alexander
 - (c) Porus
 - (d) None of these
- 20 Kalinga was captured in
 - (a) 261 B.C. (b) 280 B.C.

(c) 290 B.C. (d) 310 B.C.

- 21 Chanakya (or Kautilya) was
 - (a) Sudra
 - (b) Vaishya
 - (c) Kshatriya
 - (d) Brahman
- 22 Indika" was written by
 - (a) Megasthenes
 - (b) Banabhatt
 - (c) Harsha
 - (d) Valmiki
- 23 Mahavira and Buddha were.
 - (a) Sudras
 - (b) Brahmins
 - (c) Kshatriyas
 - (d) Varshyas
- 24 Who wrote Ramayana?
 - (a) Kalidas
 - (b) Tulidas
 - (c) Valmiki
 - (d) Kabir
- 25 Who wrote the Kamasutra?
 - (a) Andhghosh
 - (b) Vatsyavana
 - (c) Banabhatt
 - (d) Kalliana
- 26 Arthashastra deals with
 - (a) Statecraft and Administration
 - (b) Religion
 - (c) Economics
 - (d) Rural structure
- 27 The Gandhara Art had the influence from
 - (a) Mathura
 - (b) Greco Roman
 - (c) Kushans
 - (d) Central India
- 28 The Buddhist Art was mostly influenced by
 - (a) Mathura
 - (b) Greek
 - (c) Central India
 - (d) Kushans
- 29 The inscription on the Allahabad Pillar describes about
 - (a) Skanda Gupta
 - (b) Samudragupta
 - (c) Chandragupta II
 - (d) Kumar Gupta
- 30 According to Manusmriti, Sakas and Parthians belonged to
 - (a) Brahmins
 - (b) degraded Kshatriyas

OBJECTIVE-TYPE QUESTIONS

- (c) Sudras
(d) Vaishyas
31. The Guptas patronised:
(a) Brahmanism
(b) Buddhism
(c) Jainism
(d) Bhagwatism
32. The Guptas had issued the largest number of coins made up of:
(a) copper (b) gold
(c) iron (d) silver
33. The Ajanta and Ellora paintings were done during the reign of:
(a) Cholas
(b) Chandellas
(c) Chalukyas
(d) Kushans
34. The theory of Material Culture deals with:
(a) Economics
(b) Iron and Agricultural implements
(c) Social structure
(d) Making seals
35. Who reigned during 606-647 A.D.?
(a) Ashoka
(b) Harshavardhan
(c) Samudragupta
(d) Skanda Gupta
36. Harshavardhan made his capital at:
(a) Kannauj
(b) Vaishali
(c) Magadha
(d) Avant
37. The Rath Temple was built by:
(a) Sivaskanda Varman
(b) Narasimhavarman II (Pallava)
(c) Mahendravarman
(d) Pulakesan-II
38. The Sangam literature was written in:
(a) Sanskrit
(b) Prakrit
(c) Tamil
(d) Pali
39. The Ellora temples were built by:
(a) Palas
(b) Rashtrakuta
(c) Prathera
(d) Pandyas
40. The Somnath temple was robbed in:
(a) 1025 A.D.
(b) 1030 A.D.
(c) 1026 A.D.
(d) 1035 A.D.
41. What culture did Rajputs develop?

- (a) Sati
(b) Johar
(c) Child marriage
(d) Widow remarriage
42. Who were the first invaders of India?
(a) Arabs
(b) Muslims
(c) Turks
(d) Central Asians
43. Who was the first Turkish invader of India?
(a) Mahmud of Ghazni
(b) Alaptigin
(c) Sabuktigin
(d) Mahmud
44. Who built Khajuraho Temples?
(a) Pandyas
(b) Guptas
(c) Chandellas
(d) Rashtrakulas
45. To whom Mohamad Ghori defeated in the second battle of Terain?
(a) Prithvi Raj Shankan
(b) Qutb-din-Aibak
(c) Raziya
(d) Sabuktigin
46. Aryabhata was a:
(a) Scientist
(b) Economist
(c) Doctor
(d) Author
47. Which Province is related with the Battle of Plassey?
(a) Madras
(b) Bombay
(c) Bengal
(d) Orissa
48. What was the main cause of the first Karnataka war?
(a) Seven years of fighting
(b) Rivalry in trade
(c) Internal clash
(d) War of Austrian Succession
49. "Black Hole" tragedy occurred during the reign of:
(a) Mir Qasim
(b) Mir Zafar
(c) Siraj-ud-Dowla
(d) Shah Alam
50. Cout de Lally was a/an:
(a) French
(b) Dutch
(c) English
(d) Portuguese
51. Treaty of Allahabad (1765) was signed during the reign of:
(a) Aurangzeb
(b) Mir Kasim
(c) Shah Alam-II
(d) Nizam-ud-Daula

52. "Hindu Pad Padsahi" was started by:
(a) Shivaji
(b) Balaji Vishwanath
(c) Shahjee Bhosle
(d) Shambhaji
53. The Third battle of Panipat was fought in:
(a) 1731 (b) 1745
(c) 1761 (d) 1771
54. The division of the Provincial government into two halves, unofficially known as Dyarchy was result of the Government of India Act 1919 during the period of:
(a) Lord Curzon
(b) Lord Chelmsford
(c) Lord Lytton
(d) Lord Wavell
55. To whose suggestion did Lord Cornwallis accepted and introduced Permanent Settlement of Bengal?
(a) Warren Hastings
(b) A. Clarke
(c) John Shore
(d) John Macpherson

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a) | 2. (b) | 3. (c) |
| 4. (a) | 5. (a) | 6. (b) |
| 7. (d) | 8. (d) | 9. (b) |
| 10. (a) | 11. (b) | 12. (d) |
| 13. (b) | 14. (a) | 15. (d) |
| 16. (c) | 17. (b) | 18. (d) |
| 19. (a) | 20. (a) | 21. (d) |
| 22. (a) | 23. (c) | 24. (c) |
| 25. (b) | 26. (a) | 27. (b) |
| 28. (b) | 29. (b) | 30. (b) |
| 31. (a) | 32. (d) | 33. (c) |
| 34. (b) | 35. (b) | 36. (a) |
| 37. (b) | 38. (c) | 39. (b) |
| 40. (a) | 41. (b) | 42. (a) |
| 43. (c) | 44. (c) | 45. (a) |
| 46. (a) | 47. (c) | 48. (d) |
| 49. (c) | 50. (a) | 51. (c) |
| 52. (b) | 53. (c) | 54. (b) |
| 55. (c) | | |

Correction

Q. 40, page 801, June '92 issue

The answer is (a) instead of (c)

The first woman President of the Indian National Congress was Annie Besant in 1917. Sarojini Naidu was President of the Indian National Congress in 1925.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

* Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/expressions in the passage are given in **BOLD** to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

The Centre and the States must become "partners" in the planning process to determine national priorities together. The process of planning would undergo a change in view of the changes in domestic economic situation and "**momentous trends**" emerging in the world. The development of human resource and the building up of an institutional framework would have to receive priority attention. The role of the government would also have to be examined so as to fully involve the people in the process of nation building. The main task would be to ensure that the real initiative was transferred to the people. The private sector, which would register **expansion** hereafter, should keep this objective firmly in view. The need for an effective population policy is an urgent necessity in the country's planning **strategy**. The family welfare programme should not be treated as the Centre's responsibility alone. The States should **evolve** a suitable **mechanism** for closer involvement of the State governments, Zilla Parishads and Panchayats for making the programme a success.

- 1 What would force the planning process to undergo a change?
 - (a) domestic compulsions
 - (b) domestic economic situation and world trends
 - (c) international pressures
 - (d) free-market forces
- 2 What should be given priority attention?
 - (a) role of government
 - (b) decentralisation of powers
 - (c) involvement of people in raising production
 - (d) human resource and institutional framework
- 3 From the following statements, which one is FALSE?
 - (a) Real initiatives should be

- transferred to the people
 - (b) Role of the government in nation-building should be examined
 - (c) There should be no role for the government as far as planning is concerned
 - (d) Centre and States must become equal partners in the planning process
- 4 From the following statements which one is TRUE?
 - (a) Effective population policy is Centre's responsibility
 - (b) Population policy and family welfare programme are inter-linked
 - (c) Family welfare programme is secondary
 - (d) The State governments should use force to control population
 - 5 closer involvement does not include one of the following agencies
 - (a) electronic media
 - (b) State governments
 - (c) Zilla parishads
 - (d) Panchayats
 - 6 One of the following is not mentioned in the passage
 - (a) private sector
 - (b) national priorities
 - (c) nation building
 - (d) public sector
 - 7 The expression "**momentous trends**" stands for
 - (a) influential persons
 - (b) important directions
 - (c) notable results
 - (d) memorable causes
 - 8 The word opposite to "**expansion**" is
 - (a) shrinking
 - (b) elimination
 - (c) limitation
 - (d) reduction
 - 9 the nearest word in meaning to '**strategy**' is
 - (a) tool
 - (b) device
 - (c) policy
 - (d) trick
 - 10 The word '**evolve**' in the passage stand for

- (a) invent
 - (b) develop
 - (c) discover
 - (d) find
- 11 The word '**mechanism**' in the passage means
 - (a) method
 - (b) discussion
 - (c) procedure
 - (d) decision
 - 12 The opposite of '**involve**' is
 - (a) share
 - (b) dismiss
 - (c) exclude
 - (d) reject
- * In each sentence below, a part is given in *italics*. The *italics* part of the sentence may contain an error. Below each sentence, four phrases are given. One of them can substitute the *italics* part to correct it. The number of that part (1, 2, 3 & 4) is the answer. If the *italics* part is correct as it is, mark (5) as your answer.
- 13 At an early age he *had made his mark* as a chemist
 - (1) made his mark
 - (2) makes his mark
 - (3) has made his mark
 - (4) did made his mark
 - (5) No correction required
 - 14 He has been working *off and on* for several years to compile a dictionary
 - (1) regularly
 - (2) on and off
 - (3) on or off
 - (4) on and of
 - (5) No correction required
 - 15 He spent much time and energy over it and lost a large sum *in the bargain*
 - (1) with the bargain
 - (2) for the bargain
 - (3) off the bargain
 - (4) into the bargain
 - (5) No correction required
 - 16 He is not *in the good books* of his master
 - (1) in the better books
 - (2) in the good book
 - (3) in the best books
 - (4) into the good books
 - (5) No correction required
 - 17 Only the mother hankers to appease the hunger of her child *until*

she breathes the last

- (1) until she breathed the last
- (2) until she breathes her last
- (3) until she breathed her last
- (4) until she does not breathe the last
- (5) No correction required

* Read each sentence carefully to find out whether there is any grammatical error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence (1, 2, 3 & 4). If there is no error, the answer is (5).

18 My brother has (1) been living in America (2) with his family (3) for the past ten (4) years. No error (5)

19 On my request (1) I am introduced me (2) to his friend (3) who is singer and a scientist (4) No error (5)

20 Being a well known (1) physicist he was (2) invited to deliver (3) a lecture on laser technology (4) No error (5)

21 One of the (1) most widely spread (2) bad habit (3) is the use of tobacco (4) No error (5)

22 He was (1) hard down (2) for money and (3) was being harassed by his (4) creditor. No error (5)

23 The man who is (1) perpetually hesitating (2) which of the two things (3) he will do first, will ultimately do either (4) No error (5)

24 She felt ashamed (1) and requested me (2) to not to reveal (3) anything to her mother (4) No error (5)

25 If ever there was (1) a subject that (2) deserved attention on this colossal scale (3) it is surely the environment (4) No error (5)

26 There was a time (1) when we (2) used to (3) perform all the year around (4) No error (5)

27 People say (1) my voice occasionally (2) reminds them (3) of my mother (4) No error (5)

* Pick out the most effective word from the given words to fill in the blanks so that the sentences become meaningfully complete

28 The conclusion is that people will have to live with rising prices

- (a) ultimate
- (b) inescapable
- (c) final
- (d) hopeless

29 Everybody should from any action which might create ill-will among people

- (a) absent

- (b) desist
- (c) abstain
- (d) avoid

30 That must be the of economic policy in the years ahead

- (a) watchword
- (b) guide
- (c) key
- (d) indicator

31 The path of adjustment and is not easy

- (a) improvement
- (b) revolution
- (c) evolution
- (d) reform

32 A major success is to turn anybody's head

- (a) bad
- (b) enough
- (c) sufficient
- (d) timely

33 The countries of this must stop taking advantage of each other's domestic problems

- (a) area
- (b) world
- (c) region
- (d) part

34 India's entry into the tangle, was more by accident than by

- (a) debate
- (b) intention
- (c) design
- (d) purpose

35 The guilt or innocence of the will be decided by the court of law

- (a) killer
- (b) criminal
- (c) suspicious
- (d) accused

36 The grass is always, but always greener the other side

- (a) over
- (b) under
- (c) on
- (d) above

37 The surest way to make a monkey of a man is to him

- (a) imitate
- (b) quote
- (c) praise
- (d) copy

* Rearrange the following five sentences, A, B, C, D and E in proper sequence so as to make a meaningful paragraph, then answer the questions given below them:

A I think our country is searching for an identity

B Yet, I do not agree with the prophets of doom who see nothing

but disaster ahead

C And a new vision of the future will emerge from this

D When I came back to India after a stint in northern Ireland, I felt I was treading a hot bed of intense religious and political violence

E However, the mayhem over the last few months is deeply shocking

38 Which of the above sentences should come First in the paragraph?

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D
- (e) E

39 Which of the above sentences should come Second in the paragraph?

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D
- (e) E

40 Which of the above sentences should come Third in the paragraph?

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D
- (e) E

41 Which of the above sentences should come Fourth in the paragraph?

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D
- (e) E

42 Which of the above sentences should come Last in the paragraph?

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D
- (e) E

ANSWERS

1 (b)	2 (d)	3 (c)	4 (b)
5 (a)	6 (d)	7 (b)	8 (d)
9 (c)	10 (b)	11 (a)	12 (c)
13 (1)	14 (1)	15 (4)	16 (5)
17 (2)			
18 (4)	for the last ten years'		
19 (4)	'who is a singer'		
20 (5)			
21 (3)	'bad habits'		
22 (2)	'hard pressed'		
23 (4)	'will ultimately do neither'		
24 (3)	'not to reveal'		
25 (1)	'if ever there were'		
26 (4)	'all the year round'		
27 (4)	'of my mother's'		
28 (b)	29 (b)	30 (a)	
31 (d)	32 (b)	33 (c)	
34 (c)	35 (d)	36 (c)	
37 (b)	38 (d)	39 (e)	
40 (b)	41 (a)	42 (c)	

Notes on Current Affairs

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

♦ INDIA-US TALKS ON NPT ♦ INDIA, JAPAN TO SEEK NPT CONSENSUS
♦ INDIA TO WAIT FOR NPT REVIEW ♦ MANMOHAN ADMITS LAPSES
♦ AMNESTY CONDEMNS PUNJAB KILLINGS ♦ COURT RULING ON
RESERVATIONS ♦ SC/ST FOR JOBS ON POPULATION BASIS ♦ WB REJECTS
NARMADA REPORT ♦ FAMILY PLANNING FAILURE ♦ RAJYA SABHA POLL VERDICT
♦ BY ELECTIONS MIXED VERDICT ♦ TIN BIGHA LEASE BLOODSHED ♦ SCAM
NOT TO TOUCH REFORMS ♦ STALEMATE IN KASHMIR ♦ JMM THREAT TO BIHAR
GOVT ♦ STIR FOR GORKHALAND ♦

India-U.S. Talks on NPT

A high-level team of U.S. officials held talks with their Indian counterparts in Delhi on June 18-19. The main topic covered was the NPT; in particular, an attempt to evolve a compromise based on reconciliation and understanding. India maintained that the treaty was discriminatory, but it was felt that there was scope for getting closer to each other's position on the basis of "non-discriminatory elements". Both sides expressed the hope that the differences could eventually be narrowed down. There was no attempt to exert pressure on India to sign the treaty in its present form. The approach of both sides was constructive and the talks were held in a friendly atmosphere.

Several security-related concepts and possibilities were discussed. Some proposals, apparently related to non-discriminatory arrangements in relation to non-proliferation, were discussed for the first time.

The Indian delegation referred to India's nuclear record since the 1974 experimental explosion and pointed out that it has exercised the utmost restraint, especially in regard to export of nuclear technology and material. In fact its record was much better than that of the NPT signatories. As for the missiles programme, the Indian side is understood to have made it clear that New Delhi would not accept any "irrational" restrictions.

Arms for Pakistan: The Indian delegation pointed out that in spite of the Pressler amendment, Pakistan continued to receive considerable quantities of US arms through commercial transactions. On the other hand, India had not violated any law.

The US side, which referred to India's defence expenditure, was told that in real terms it had actually come down in recent years, considering the international value of the rupee and the 12 per cent inflation. In terms of percentage of the Gross National Product (GNP), it declined from 4.2 per cent in the period from 1987 to 1990. In 1991-92 it was 3.21 per cent and during the current fiscal year it was expected to be below three per cent. In Pakistan, the corresponding figure in 1989-90 was 8.24 per cent. In per capita terms the figure in 1988 was \$ 12 (US) in the case of India, compared with \$ 23 and \$ 20 in China and Pakistan, respectively.

No Aid-Human Rights Link: US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Teresita Schaffer's recent visit to New Delhi is being seen as the beginning of a productive dialogue between the two countries. The visit blunted what some described as "alarmist" reports from New Delhi, suggesting that Ms Schaffer had held out a warning to the Finance Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, that pressure from the US Congress had made it difficult for the Bush administration to delink economic aid from human rights and non-proliferation concerns. Moreover, the US aid is

only \$ 24 million a year, too small an amount to be used as a lever.

India is one of the biggest beneficiaries of the World Bank credit facility. In fiscal 1993, which began in April, it is likely to get \$ 6.7 billion as foreign aid, almost half of which will come from the World Bank.

The World Bank Vice-President, Mr Wood, was all praise for India's economic reforms and as tangible evidence of the Bank's support, he announced the second and final tranche of its \$ 500 million structural adjustment loan for the country.

There are some anti-India elements in the US Congress, who often introduce bills denying aid to India as a protest against its human rights record, but the administration had always opposed such moves. It favours a policy of constructive dialogue with India.

India, Japan to seek NPT consensus

INDIA and Japan agreed on June 23 to explore a new international consensus on the nuclear non-proliferation issue. The two countries also decided to incorporate arrangements which were both comprehensive and non-discriminatory while striving for a consensus. Mr Narasimha Rao explained to the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, that India's reservations over the NPT were no different from Japan's which, while signing the treaty in 1975, had wanted its rectification on the ground that it was discriminatory as it gave a special status to nuclear powers.

The NPT is due for review three years hence and preparatory work would begin from the middle of next year. This is the time for the two countries to work together, Mr Rao urged, sharing the Japanese Premier's concern over proliferation of nuclear weapons. The risk is not

from one or two countries which have not signed the NPT. There is the frightening possibility of ready-made nuclear weapons and technology being used. In addition, some countries which had signed the NPT were having clandestine nuclear programmes which clearly indicated the glaring inadequacies of a regional approach to the nuclear issue.

The Japanese Premier made no linkage between the NPT issue and Japan's economic aid to India.

India to Wait for NPT Review

INDIA would wait till the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty comes up for international review in 1995 before taking a decision on signing it, the Prime Minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, said at his press conference on June 30. India has not signed the treaty because of its discriminatory nature; the most obvious change necessary in the document is that it be made non-discriminatory. The end-result of the treaty should be that no nuclear weapons exist anywhere on the face of the earth.

Spelling out the Government's new defence against continuing international pressure on the sensitive NPT issue, the Prime Minister asserted that it would "look odd" to sign the treaty when the review process was due to start soon. Many nations which had signed the treaty have criticised its discriminatory nature.

Asked for his comments on a suggestion that India declare itself a nuclear-weapon State and then negotiate on the NPT issue, the Prime Minister shot back: "We cannot declare ourselves what we are not."

Manmohan Admits lapses

AS expected, members of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of the Finance Ministry took to task the Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India, on June 24, for the colossal failure of the system which led to the Securities scam by Harshad Mehta and his associates. Finance Minister Manmohan Singh acknow-

ledged that there were tremendous lapses in the banking system. The internal audit failed, the system failed, and the scam brought shame to us, he said while reacting to bitter criticism. However, he defended the RBI Governor, Mr S. Venkitaramanan, and contended that he could not be blamed for the scam.

The Government intends to amend the contracts of all bank chairmen; they would now have to seek the permission of the Government for joining as directors of any other company after retirement. Mr N.P.K. Slave, who criticised the Finance Minister and the top bureaucrats during the discussion on the scam in the Rajya Sabha, suggested that banks be converted into the joint sector. In his view, nationalisation of the banks had destroyed the checks and balances in the banking system, with bureaucrats and politicians interfering in their running.

Special tribunals to recover bank loans and making it obligatory on bank chairmen to seek government permission for holding post-retirement jobs, are among the measures the Government will adopt to restore public confidence in the financial system shattered by the Rs 3,078-crore securities scam. The Finance Minister disclosed that the Government would take all possible measures to restore and enhance people's confidence in the financial system.

Second enquiry report: The RBI enquiry committee, in its second interim report submitted on July 6, disclosed that the total amount involved in the stock scam was Rs 3542.78 crore—higher by about Rs 500 crore than the estimate of Rs 3078.96 crore made by the committee in June. The committee also found glaring deficiencies in the internal control mechanism in the entire banking system.

Amnesty Condemns Punjab killings

AMNESTY International, on June 20, condemned the recent, deliberate and arbitrary killings by armed opposition groups in Punjab

and called on these and other armed groups elsewhere in India to stop such killings of civilians, including hostages, as well as others under their control and to live up to basic humanitarian standards.

Amnesty urged the Indian Government to order an inquiry into the reported extra-judicial executions by the security forces of Sikh young men whose bodies were found in the Sirhind canal in January this year and to release Mr Ajit Singh Bains, a former High Court Judge and human rights advocate.

The human rights organisation deplored the killings of hundreds of civilians. It felt upset by the spate of brutal murders committed by armed groups in pursuit of their campaign for an independent Sikh homeland—"Khalistan".

Referring to the brutal murders, by militants, of two University Professors and an All India Radio official, Amnesty said these killings of civilians can never be condoned in time of peace or war. "They are forbidden by minimum humane standards in the Geneva Conventions, established for governments and opposition groups alike involved in armed conflicts within a country." "Deliberately killing civilians simply because they belong to a particular community, as we've seen so often in Punjab, and killing defenceless hostages, as has happened in Kashmir, Assam and now in Punjab, are particularly reprehensible."

India's rejoinder to Amnesty: Reacting to the persistent allegations of human rights violations, the Government of India has sent a rejoinder to Amnesty International, giving case-by-case details in respect of about 50 specific instances. The Government has made it clear that India firmly believes in human rights and has never been found wanting in bringing to book those found guilty in this regard.

Official sources said in Delhi on June 24 that soon after the receipt of Amnesty International's report citing

415 cases of alleged torture, rape and deaths in police custody in various parts of the country, a special cell had been constituted in the Home Ministry to enquire into these complaints. The replies given by the concerned States have been forwarded to Amnesty. Action has been taken against those found guilty.

Court Ruling on Reservations

AN Allahabad High Court verdict on June 22 is likely to renew the reservations debate all over again. The High Court declared that caste-based reservations in the scientific field, whether for admission in educational institutions, including medical and engineering colleges, or for appointment in the science departments of schools and colleges, were arbitrary and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution.

The judge said: "The policy of reservation, as contemplated by Article 16(4) and Article 15(4) of the Constitution is basically a compromise between the need for excellence on the one hand, and the need for making special provision for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes or scheduled castes/tribes on the other hand.

"However, in my opinion the time has come when it must be boldly and clearly said that there can be no compromise in the field of science and technology. Today, our country is passing through one of its worst patches in our 6,000-year-old known history. Unless we now adopt the scientific path and scientific outlook, foreign nations will totally dominate us. Science, therefore, is the only means of solving our country's problems."

On the reservation policy, the judge said while the socially and educationally backward classes and scheduled castes should certainly be helped, the interests of the nation cannot be overlooked. A line has to be drawn somewhere to the policy of caste-based reservation and I draw the line at science. Science has no

caste or religion. In my opinion, therefore, there can be no valid reservation in the field of science and technology.

SC/ST for jobs on population basis

THE national convention of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes MPs and MLAs, held in Delhi in the third week of June, demanded increasing the job reservations for these communities in government, banks and public sector undertakings on the basis of their population according to the 1991 census, and also reservations in the higher judiciary. Several amendments seeking extension of reservation to the private sector and universities for the purpose of admission were adopted unanimously by the convention.

The resolution on reservations also urged the Centre, the States and public bodies to implement the reservation strictly so that the entire quota is filled from among these communities without leaving any backlog. The convention urged the Centre to promulgate an ordinance providing for penal provisions against officials "soft-peddalling" the reservations. It also urged the States to adopt similar legislations.

A large section of the educated SC/ST youths were feeling "frustrated" due to "improper implementation" of the reservation policy, it was contended. Proper representation of these communities at all levels of the administration would alone help better their lot.

While most of the speakers complained about lack of representation of these communities at the higher level of the administration, the former Rajasthan Chief Minister, Mr Jagannath Pahadia, observed that their inadequate representation among the lower rungs of the police force was "indirectly responsible for the continuing atrocities against the downtrodden".

WB rejects Narmada report

THE independent review commission set up by the former World

Bank President, Mr Barber Conable, has recommended immediate suspension of further work on the Sardar Sarovar dam and the partially completed canal until resettlement and environmental concerns have been met.

However, the current world Bank President, Mr Lewis Preston, has reiterated the Bank's support for the project while accepting the commission's finding that the policies of both the World Bank and the Indian Government have been deficient and need to be rectified.

"Continued support for the Narmada project is justified", said Mr Preston. "But we should proceed only if practical ways can be agreed upon to ensure that the pace of further construction of the dam is adjusted to whatever extent is required to permit a fully responsible approach to the resettlement and environmental concerns. This will be the premise underlying our project-specific remedial actions."

The commission paid a tribute to India's environmental policies but said it was not living up to these policies. The review was highly critical of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, and praised Gujarat on the resettlement issue, but even regarding Gujarat it had reservations.

Forwarding the 363-page report on the \$ 11 billion project, one of the largest in the world, to the Bank President (Mr Preston), Mr Morse and Mr Berger said in their letter: "We think the Sardar Sarovar projects as they stand are flawed; settlement and rehabilitation of all those displaced by the projects is not possible under prevailing circumstances, and the environmental impacts of the projects have not been properly considered and adequately provided for.

Family Planning Failure

A fresh assessment of India's family planning programmes by the Operation Evaluation Department of the U.S. indicates that the programme is now reaching a point of

diminishing returns despite some notable achievements. The reason is stated to be the excessive stress on sterilisation. The report indicates that the percentage of married couples of reproductive age using various types of contraception was 14 in 1970 and 34 per cent in 1980 (22 per cent sterilisation).

The emphasis on sterilisation has meant that a large fraction of the programme's potential target— younger couples who might be interested in spacing—are more or less ignored. The report emphasises that Indian women, on an average, have their third child when nearing 30; so even if child bearing after 30 were completely eliminated by sterilisation, the total fertility rate would not decline to replacement levels. National figures are misleading, the report contends, because of the extreme diversity of indicators within the country. "Further progress is likely to be limited without much greater social and economic progress. In particular, improvements in the education and status of women and in child health and longevity are urgently required, especially in India's northern States."

Fertility (and contraceptive prevalence) rates vary greatly among the States, from approximately 2.2 in Kerala and 2.6 in Tamil Nadu to between 4.7 to 5.3 in the four northern States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar, which together constitute 40 per cent of India's population.

Rajya Sabha Poll Verdict

TWENTY-two candidates were declared elected to the Rajya Sabha from three States on June 25. Of these 10 seats went to the BJP, six to the Congress. The Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Mrs Najma Heptullah, the Bharatiya Janata Party President, Dr Murli Manohar Joshi, the AICC General Secretary, Mr Sushil Kumar Shinde, and the former Home Minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, were among the prominent winners.

The Janata Dal won 2 seats, Samajvadi Janata Party, Janata Dal (A) and Shiv Sena one each. In a battle between industrialists in Rajasthan for one seat, Mr R.P. Modi, backed by the BJP-JD(D) coalition, won, defeating Mr Sanjay Dalmia. The BJP winners included some senior party leaders. They were three party vice-presidents, Mr Sunder Singh Bhandari, Dr Baldev Prakash and Mr Vishnukant Shastri, the former Home Secretary, Mr T.N. Chaturvedi, and the General Secretary, Mr Pramod Mahajan. Though Dr Baldev Prakash and Mr Shastri belong to Punjab and West Bengal, respectively they were accommodated in U.P. as part of the party's strategy to give representation to its leaders from States where either elections were not held or it was not in a position to win any seat. In the re-poll for seven Rajya Sabha seats from Bihar, all the four Janata Dal candidates, including Mr I.K. Gujral, were declared elected.

By and large, the poll outcome was on the expected lines. Counting of votes was withheld for seven seats in Bihar following bizarre happenings in which the Chief Minister, Mr L.P. Yadav, and the Congress leader, Mr Jagannath Mishra, traded allegations. Mr V.P. Singh endorsed the view of the West Bengal Chief Minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, that the Chief Election Commissioner, Mr T.N. Seshan, was a "threat to democracy". The BJP was the biggest gainer in this round of biennial elections.

Impact on party structure: The results of the Rajya Sabha poll have made a notable impact on the parliamentary equation. The Congress strength has been reduced to about 100. This makes the ruling party vulnerable in the 232-member House to a host of unprincipled and often undependable allies. In a way the new Rajya Sabha reflects correctly the balance of political forces across the country. The most striking feature is the emergence of the BJP as the principal opposition party in the Upper House, as it is in the lower one. The

changed arithmetic may force the Congress to modify its legislative programmes so as to ensure the support of other groups. The elections have also brought the country face to face with the unappetising fact of our political leadership succumbing to the threat of muscle power and the lure of money bags.

By-elections: Mixed Verdict

THE by-elections to two Lok Sabha and 19 Assembly seats, held on June 8, resulted in a mixed verdict. The Congress won the prestigious New Delhi Lok Sabha seat, its candidate, Rajesh Khanna, defeating his film star colleague Shatrughan Sinha, by a comfortable margin of 28,256 votes. Mr Khanna polled 101,625 votes while Mr Sinha got 73,369.

The Giridih Lok Sabha seat in Bihar was won by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) candidate, Mr Rajkishore Maheta who defeated his nearest rival, Mr Samares Singh (BJP), by about 61,000 votes. The 19 Assembly seats were shared by the Congress, the BJP, SJP, IUML, Cong. (S), CPM, MES (Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti), and an independent. The BJP won both the Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh. The Goa by-election was won by an independent. The Congress lost two seats in Kerala and Goa, mainly because of intra-party feuds.

This time also there were allegations of rigging, booth capturing and vote snatching in Bihar and West Bengal. Re-polling was ordered in as many as 46 booths in Bihar and also for the Ballygunje seat in West Bengal which was won, on repolling, by Communists with a big margin.

Tin Bigha Lease Bloodshed

THE lease in perpetuity of the Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh on June 26 was marked by sporadic incidents of violence, resulting in some deaths. The long delayed implementation of the agreement on the 187 metres by 85 metres corridor was solemnised with the cross-over of of-

officials and civilians of both countries amidst tight security. The modalities of the agreement had been formalised by the two governments on March 26.

The accord on the lease, signed in 1974, had a long passage through Indian courts. It was agreed by the two countries that residents of Angarpota and Dahagram enclaves of Bangladesh would be provided passage to the Bangladesh mainland through the corridor. Normal life was affected in Siliguri for some time by a *bandh* called by the BJP, SUCI and AMRA Bangalee. There were some casualties in police firing.

A spokesman of the Foreign office of Bangladesh expressed the hope that the implementation of the agreement would usher in a new era of cooperation. While most major political parties expressed satisfaction over the development, a number of parties, particularly those which are religion-based, strongly criticised the Government for its surrender to pressure in accepting "conditional and regulated use" of the corridor.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister told Parliament that the strip would serve as a "Friendship corridor" between the two neighbours. Making a statement, he said the opening of the corridor to Bangladesh nationals would usher in a new era of neighbourliness. He expressed the hope that all other bilateral disputes could be resolved in the same spirit.

Scam Not to touch reforms

THE economic reforms introduced by the Government would not be derailed by the recent multi-crore stock scam, the Finance Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, has said. The unfortunate aberration reinforces the need for credible, deeper, broader, faster financial reforms covering both the stock market and the banking system. Asserting that the Government was determined to punish those involved in the stock scam, Dr Singh said "We have already given sufficient indication of our firm resolve to take effective, deterrent action."

The Reserve Bank of India Governor, Mr S. Venkitaramanan, has said the Government could recover much more than Rs 2,000 crore lost in the scam. The amount could be recovered from "those who have defrauded the system and from the banks from outside which have defrauded us".

Meanwhile the P.M. declared that if any of his ministerial colleagues was found involved in the securities scam, he would be sacked from the Council of Ministers. He did not rule out the possibility of setting up a parliamentary committee to go into the securities scam.

The P.M. affirmed the Government's commitment to continue the direction, content and thrust of economic reforms. He was not worried about the pace of reforms. Quick reforms are not good as these would land the country in difficulties.

IMF releases Aid to India: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released \$ 647 million to India signifying the approval of the Government's macro-economic stabilisation programme for 1991-92 and the proposed programme for the current year.

It is estimated that during the current fiscal year India will receive \$ 1.6 billion from the IMF under the 20-month upper credit tranche stand-by arrangement entered into with it on October 31 last to help tide over the critical balance of payments problem. The approval of the IMF board signifies that India's programme of macro-economic stabilisation is basically on track, a finance ministry note claimed.

Return to high growth path: Finance Minister Manmohan Singh predicted on July 1 that India would return to a high growth path of five to six per cent and bring inflation down to single digit by next year. In an interview, he said he would ensure full convertibility of the rupee on the current account as soon as inflation and fiscal imbalances were brought

under control.

Expressing satisfaction at the manner in which the Government had managed the crisis-ridden economy in the last 12 months, Dr Manmohan Singh said he would continue with the economic reforms in the months ahead without "flinching".

The Finance Minister had hoped last year that the economy would return to a high growth path in two to three years. But he was now confident that this would happen "sooner than anticipated". He had warned right at the outset that it would take 18 to 24 months to bring prices under check after the "violent" disturbance that the economy had undergone in the two years before the present government assumed office.

Stalemate in Kashmir

STALEMATE continues in Kashmir and the security forces are keeping up the pressure on the militants. The Governor, Mr Girish Saxena, admits however that the militants "are not on the run". It would be wrong to assess the situation on the basis of the large number of arrests made in the Valley almost every day.

The recovery of arms has been much more than in the last two years. Officials claim that as many as 1,800 Kalashnikov rifles have been recovered so far this year against a total of 2,200 last year and 1,400 in 1990. The strict vigil on the Line of Actual Control has reduced infiltration from Pak Occupied Kashmir. Nevertheless the militants do sneak in. Moreover, fresh recruits are still going across for training in the handling of arms.

The Governor claims that one-third of the trained militants, who are still at large, are inactive. He also claims that efforts to wean away the militants from the path of violence are succeeding which, he says, is borne out by the surrender of over 900 militants in the last one and a half years. Official sources say a major breakthrough is that the security tor-

ces have wrested the initiative from the militants; fewer casualties are suffered by the security forces so far this year.

The level of separatist violence has gone down, but the security forces remain overstretched and under constant strain as is evident from the increasing number of sand-bag bunkers and the daily search operations. The gravity of the situation can also be gauged from the fact that the Army is always out in one or the other part of the Valley.

Autonomy issue: The Prime Minister indicated on June 30 that the question of giving more autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir could be discussed with the elected representatives only after the cult of gun had been controlled and a democratically elected government had been installed.

Replying to a question, the Prime Minister said on the Kashmir issue there were different demands by different people. There was a wide spectrum of opinion on the subject of autonomy to be given to the State, from the BJP's demand to scrap Article 370 to the demand for restricting the Centre's jurisdiction to a few issues. The time had not come yet to discuss the quantum of autonomy for the State.

JMM threat to Bihar Govt

THE Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has decided to withdraw its support to the Bihar Government from August 5 if the latter fails to recommend a Bill in the current session of the Assembly or by a Cabinet decision. Addressing newsmen at Ranchi on June 29, the JMM General Secretary, Mr Shailendra Mahato, said a resolution to this effect was passed by the central committee meeting of the party.

The meeting, however, failed to patch up the dissent in the party on the issue. The induction of the former Union Minister, Mr Subodh Kant Sahay, into the party also drew criticism. In another press conference, Mr Krishna Mardi, MP said

he and nine MLAs were against the decision to withdraw support. "As long as we remain in the National Front, we should go on supporting the State Government."

Detailing the resolutions adopted at the meeting, Mr Mahato said the committee had drawn a fresh line of action to speed up the Jharkhand movement. A "Jharkhand Bandh" would be called on September 1, followed by an indefinite economic blockade.

Reports from Delhi indicate that a dialogue between the Centre and the Bihar Government will begin soon to finalise the proposals for Jharkhand General Council (JGC) on the basis of the recommendations made by experts of the Committee on Jharkhand Matters (COJM).

Stir for Gorkhaland

MR Subash Ghising, the Gorkha Hill Council Chairman, has renewed his threat to start an agitation for a new entity—Gorkhaland. He is greatly upset over the West Bengal Government's 57 objections against the running of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC). He is preparing for a renewed call for setting up of a separate Gorkhaland

State within the Indian Union.

Mr Ghising asserted on July 3 that since its inception the DGHC was a still-born child as the Act governing it was defective. The Act did not give autonomous power to the DGHC but was aimed at keeping the Gorkhas of Darjeeling under the oppressive rule of the West Bengal Government by denying them political and constitutional rights. The DGHC Act was against the spirit of the tripartite accord of August, 1988, which led to the formation of the Hill Council, he contended. The West Bengal Chief Minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, had requested him to give the Hill Council a trial and he had done so for three years. He had repeatedly requested Mr Basu and other ministers and senior officers of the Left Front Government to review the DGHC Act and make the necessary amendments to remove the lacunae, but nothing had been done so far, he added.

On the contrary, in April the Government alleged that the Hill Council was not being run according to the relevant Act and put an embargo on expenditure. Thus the State government had played a "vindictive and deceitful role" to make the DGHC a complete failure.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

♦ NEW ROLE FOR U.N. ♦ ISRAEL TO MAKE PEACE WITH ARABS ♦ BREAK-UP OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA ♦ INTEGRATION OF EUROPE ♦ NEW AFGHANISTAN PRESIDENT ♦ 'DANGEROUS SITUATION' IN RUSSIA ♦ PRESIDENT OF ALGERIA SHOT ♦ POWER TRANSFER IN PHILIPPINES ♦

New Role for U.N.

THE U.N. Secretary-General, Dr Boutros Ghali, in an important report entitled "Preventive Diplomacy, Peace-making and Peace-keeping", sent to the Security Council, at the end of June, emphasises that the UN has emerged as the central instrument for prevention and resolution of conflicts and for preservation of peace. Dr Ghali was asked by the Security Council to prepare for circulation to the UN members an "analysis and recommendations on ways for strengthening and making

more efficient within the framework and provisions of the Charter the capacity of the U.N. for preventive diplomacy, peace-making and peace-keeping.

The document outlines the aims of the UN in the post-Cold War era and examines the opportunities that lie ahead. It also envisages enhancing the UN's military and policing roles, putting its finances relating to peace-keeping operations on a sound footing, sharpening the coordination with regional bodies, emphasising the need to remove causes of tension,

including rehabilitation, and help rebuild shattered economies.

Among the major recommendations are: creation of demilitarised zones as a part of preventive action, Security Council summits to be held every alternate year to discuss "challenges and dangers" and greater reliance on the International Court of Justice for peaceful adjudication of disputes.

As for situations of internal crisis, Dr Ghali has maintained that the U.N. will need to respect the sovereignty of the State and provide humanitarian assistance with the consent of the affected country. The new concepts presented by Dr Ghali include "peace enforcement units" which will be more heavily armed than peace-keeping units to restore and maintain a cease-fire.

The sources of conflict and war are deep and pervasive. To reach them will require our utmost effort to enhance respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms to promote sustainable economic and social development for wider prosperity to alleviate distress. There were over 100 major conflicts around the world since 1945, which left some 20 million dead. But the UN was helpless because vetoes reduced it to a state of helplessness in many cases.

Extensions of the UN's peace-keeping role are now possible, the Secretary-General asserted, because of the consensus that exists in favour of making the world body the central instrument for resolving not only inter-State but also intra-State conflicts—as reflected in the dramatic increase in its interventions.

Dr Ghali has revived the idea of member-States agreeing to place troops and equipment on call but only France has so far committed itself to provide a thousand or at best 2,000 troops. This makes a virtual mockery of the concept of the UN as a guardian of world peace.

Members' Reservations: Security Council members on June 30 expressed reservation on Secretary-

General Boutros Ghali's report on preventive diplomacy, peace-making and peace-keeping. Diplomats at the U.N. headquarters said the course being favoured by the Council could mean prolonged discussions, which could either extensively modify Mr Ghali's suggestions or have the effect of putting it on the shelf.

The non-aligned States also expressed several reservations whereas Western members were somewhat favourably inclined to the report. The non-aligned want the report to be debated by the entire membership, arguing that its consequences could be far-reaching and hence the Council alone was not competent to take any decision. They also stressed that relative competence of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the International Court of Justice need to be discussed thoroughly prior to any action.

Besides, they raised the question of the sovereignty of States vis-a-vis the U.N. competence to take action. This question has been troubling the non-aligned ever since the Council took action in Iraq. Among other things, Mr Ghali has suggested that each member-State should put a thousand troops at the disposal of the world body to enable it to call them within 24 hours in case of a crisis. He had argued that delay in assembling peace-keeping force often complicated the situation.

Israel to make Peace with Arabs

THE conservative, reactionary, anti-Arab Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Shamir, was ousted from power when he and his party, Likud, suffered a stunning defeat in the elections held on June 24. After scoring a surprise victory, Labour Party leader Yitzhak Rabin pledged that his party would push for peace with the Arabs. "The first stage has begun, the first stage of a new hope", a flushed Rabin said as frenzied supporters in Tel-Aviv chanted "Rabin, king of Israel". Mr Shamir's party ruled for 15 years. Mr Rabin, who led Israel's capture of

the West Bank and Gaza Strip 25 years ago, has promised the Palestinians in the occupied lands autonomy within nine months. He has also vowed to halt the settlements and use the funds to find jobs for unemployed ex-Soviet immigrants. However, he pledged to make no concessions on Jerusalem or permit Palestinian Statehood, a position consistent with that of Mr Shamir. Labour and Likud each had 38 seats in the outgoing Parliament.

It was Likud's worst showing since 1969 and was expected to signal bloody political infighting in the party which the late Menachem Begin brought to power in 1977.

The result marked an astonishing comeback for Rabin who resigned as Prime Minister in 1977 in a scandal over an illegal foreign bank account held by his wife. He announced that "peace and security" would be top priorities for the new government.

Estimates gave the Labour-led Left bloc a majority with 64 seats in the 120-seat Parliament. By itself, Labour now has 47 seats. Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat called the Israeli election result a vote "against terrorism" practised by the Government of Premier Shamir. US Secretary of State James A. Baker called for a quick resumption of West Asia peace talks once the new Israeli Government settles in.

Break-up of Czechoslovakia

THE leaders of principal factions in Czechoslovakia failed to agree on fundamentals early in June and a break-up of the country seemed inevitable. "The Czechoslovak federation is lost", the Prime Minister-designate Vaclav Klaus, said after meeting Mr Meciar, leader of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia which swept the eastern region in a general election.

The election highlighted the deep differences between the two parts of the country. Mr Klaus's right-wing Civic Democratic Party (ODS) won in

the western Czech republic but Mr Meciar's nationalist-minded HZDS swept the eastern region. Voters overwhelmingly backed Mr Meciar's platform of greater autonomy for Slovakia. He insisted that the region must declare sovereignty and take other steps that Czech politicians say would effectively break up the Czechoslovak Federation.

The HZDS wanted to create a sovereign Slovak State with international status and only then find a formulation for continuing loose links with the Czech republic. Both sides reported deep differences on Czechoslovakia's future constitutional set-up and held out the possibility of a referendum this year in which Czechs and Slovaks would vote on whether to stay together. Before that, however, Mr Vladimir Meciar, the burly populist who won elections in Slovakia, plans to declare Slovak sovereignty one step short of independence, and adopt a Slovak constitution. President Havel conceded that the situation was serious.

Integration of Europe

THE plans for integration of Europe have run into difficulties, though the chances of a settlement in due course cannot be ruled out. On June 22, Ireland voted "yes" in a bid to save the Maastricht Treaty from demise. This decision was welcomed in Brussels and in London because an adverse vote by Ireland after the Danish "no" would have caused a big setback to the process of further integration of Europe.

The treaty can come into force only if it is ratified by all the 12 member-nations, one of whom (Denmark) has rejected it. No solution has been found to the problem and the leaders have not yet recovered from the verdict given by the people of Denmark. Ways are being discussed to overcome the hurdle, either through another referendum in Denmark or by making that country leave the European community. There is opposition in Denmark to having another referendum.

The process of parliamentary ratification is on in Britain, but the Government is facing serious opposition from a few Conservative Party members who want the Maastricht Treaty to be discarded and are urging the Prime Minister, Mr John Major, to make a new beginning. The demand for a referendum on the issue has been turned down by the Government. However, the French President, Mr Francois Mitterrand, has agreed to hold a referendum and there is no certainty which way the vote would go. If after the Irish vote, the French also say "yes", France and Germany would be very keen to go ahead on the federal path even without Denmark.

New Afghanistan President

IN a peaceful transfer on June 28 the Afghan caretaker President Mr Sibghatullah Mojadidi handed over power to a Mujahideen council headed by Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani. This ended the two-month tenure of his interim government that took over from the ousted communist regime of Dr Najibullah. The transfer of power marked the beginning of the second phase of transition from communist to Islamic rule in Afghanistan and the end of the first chapter of political instability and accompanying lawlessness. Mr Mojadidi blamed his Defence Minister, Mr Ahmed Shah Masood, for the chaos and the violence which erupted after he assumed office.

The Mujahideen leader, Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, has promised support to the new interim government but he had harsh words for the outgoing President. The new council under Prof Rabbani must hold elections within four months of his mandate. Mr Hekmatyar insisted that "all armed forces should withdraw from Kabul", referring to Uzbek militiamen who have occupied parts of the city in the last two months.

Strict Islamic State: The new Afghan President, Prof Rabbani is facing pressure from fundamentalists

who want a strict Islamic State. Mr Hekmatyar, threatened to withdraw his support if the new leader doesn't curb robberies, killings and other crimes that have become common in Kabul. There is no administration, no order in Kabul, said Mr Hekmatyar, who once threatened to destroy the capital in his own bid for power. "There's a different government on every street. People don't feel that their lives, property and honour are secure."

Although considered fundamentalist, Mr Rabbani also is known as being pragmatic and willing to compromise. In his farewell address, Mr Mojadidi accused Mr Rabbani and Mr Hekmatyar of trying to sabotage his administration. He warned of forces trying to divide Afghanistan and prevent healing of the ethnic ideological and religious wounds of the 14-year civil war that has left more than half of its 15 million people dead, wounded or living in exile.

There were bitter clashes in Kabul in the first week of July, with rockets and tanks put to use.

"Dangerous Situation" in Russia

MIKHAIL Gorbachov has warned that the situation in Russia is "dire and dangerous" and has blamed the Russian political leadership for the present state of affairs. The last President of the erstwhile Soviet Union said in a TV interview that the country found itself in this predicament because of serious blunders made in politics, and also in the method of enacting economic reforms. He called upon the pro-reform forces to unite and cooperate with "reform-minded political trends" to achieve success.

He also urged the Government to follow the advice of "conservative reformers" who favoured slower and more controlled implementation of reforms. The Commonwealth's role is miniscule in the field of economy, the monetary system and economic links. The breakdown of economic ties between the former constituents of the Soviet Union was a pointer.

Meanwhile, an opinion poll conducted by the Institute of Sociology and Parliamentarism, indicated that only 14 per cent of the population "link hopes for solving the problems faced by Russia with the present Government". The poll showed that 46 per cent of those surveyed did not trust any of the present Russian politicians. Of the respondents 62 per cent felt that "mafia and anarchy are reigning in Moscow".

War Against Communists: The Yeltsin regime has virtually declared a "war" against the now-banned Communist forces which have been accused of rearing para-military underground contingents to overthrow constitutional and legitimate power. In a panic-gripped broadcast, Moscow Radio warned that such a danger has arisen for the first time since 1917 when Bolsheviks had usurped power.

The ruling group's virulent charges against the opponents include distributing of anti-Yeltsin pamphlets, making accusations against prominent State figures and creating anarchic conditions. The broadcast bemoaned that efforts were being made to destroy the State system and push the society to an abyss once more after 1917. The alarm has been raised by Yeltsin forces following the growing unity among communists and extremists in the patriotic forces. There was simmering anger among armed forces. The uneasiness prevailing in the ranks of pro-market and pro-Washington lobbies in Moscow has become evident.

Yeltsin decree on privatisation: Russia's acting Prime Minister, Mr Yegor Gaidar, has announced that President Boris Yeltsin would shortly sign a decree on large-scale privatisation. Mr Gaidar, who heads the Government's economic "shock therapy" team, disclosed that the task of speeding up privatisation had become the priority of the day.

Paraphrasing Stalin's famous phrase "offensive of socialism all

over the frontline", Mr Gaidar declared: "We are now deploying reforms all over the frontline." Meanwhile, the Deputy Speaker of the Russian Parliament, Mr Yuri Yazov said that the economic reform in Russia was facing serious difficulties. About 850 industrial enterprises closed down in Russia every month since January.

President of Algeria Shot

ALGERIA'S Head of State Mohammed Boudiaf, whose appointment in January blocked a Muslim fundamentalist election victory, was assassinated on June 29 by a man in police uniform who blasted him from behind with sub-machinegun fire. It was the Arab world's most dramatic political killing since Egyptian fundamentalists assassinated President Anwar Sadat on a reviewing stand in October 1981.

The killer was caught. Many sources suspect there was a full-fledged conspiracy behind the assassination.

Algeria, a major oil and gas producer in deep economic trouble, has been in political turmoil for more than a year. Boudiaf, in exile for 27 years, was an almost forgotten man when the country's military and political leaders abandoned a two-year experiment in democracy under President Chadli Benjedid in January. They scrapped a half-finished election which the Fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front seemed sure of winning a parliamentary majority and called Boudiaf home to head a five-man collective presidency.

Since the election was scrapped, the authorities have rounded up thousands of suspected fundamentalists and sympathisers and used troops to prevent large political gatherings. Earlier, Mr Boudiaf hinted that presidential elections might be held within 12 months and that he might run. His visits to the provinces, the first since he came to power, were viewed as an attempt to build up

popular support.

Power Transfer in Philippines

THE transfer of political and military power in the Philippines from Ms Aquino to the new President, Fidel Ramos, took place on June 30. Mr Ramos, who won the May 11 Presidential election, took the oath of office in the first orderly transfer of power in the country in a quarter century. Ms Corazon Aquino stepped down after a turbulent six-year rule that began with the overthrow of the late dictator, Ferdinand Marcos, in 1986.

Four bomb explosions rocked Manila hours before the inauguration of the Philippine President-elect. The blasts damaged three banks and a railway station but there were no reports of casualties. No group has claimed responsibility for the pre-dawn blasts. The 64-years-old former Defence Secretary had defended Aquino against seven coup attempts.

Mr Ramos must tackle such critical issues as amnesty for communist Muslim and rightist rebels. The country's economy is in a shambles and he must reconcile contradictory demands to hold down spending and protect those who depend on public service programmes.

A secretive man, Mr Ramos has given few clues to his plans but says economic revival will be a priority. Supporters compare Mr Ramos to Mr Ramon Magsaysay, another former defence chief, whose successful presidency was cut short by a plane crash in 1957.

Correction

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Answer to Q96 is (d) instead of (b).
The name of the present Prime Minister of Japan is: **Kiichi Miyazawa**.

THE EXAMINER'S GUESS QUESTIONS

Q. Who has been appointed as head of the 10th Finance Commission?

Ans. K.C. Pant, former Defence Minister. The 9th Finance Commission was headed by Mr N.P.K. Salve.

The Finance Commission has been constituted under Article 280 of the Constitution and of the Finance Commission (Misc Provisions) Act. It is to submit its report by November 30, 1993 covering a period of five years commencing on April 1, 1995.

Q. At which place was the 30th Chess Olympiad held?

Ans. Manila, Philippines.

Q. Which country has been awarded the 1993 Champions Trophy?

Ans. Malaysia.

Q. For what purpose was Verma Commission constituted?

Ans. The Verma Commission, headed by Justice J.S. Verma, a sitting Supreme Court judge was constituted to investigate security lapses leading to assassination of Rajiv Gandhi.

Q. Which three languages has the government agreed to include in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

Ans. Nepali, Konkani and Manipuri.

Q. What is CRISIL?

Ans. CRISIL or The Credit Rating Information Services of India Ltd is an agency, approved by the Reserve Bank of India, that issues credit rating certificates to firms.

Q. What is "dividend balancing"?

Ans. Dividend balancing pertains to balancing the outflows on account of dividend payments by export earnings over a period of time. This was one of the conditions imposed in the industrial policy. But foreign investors had found it as an irritant. On June 19, 1992 the government withdrew this condition for all except the industries in the consumer goods sector.

Q. What is *Tin Bigha*?

Ans. It is a 178 metres by 85

metres strip of land on West Bengal-Bangladesh border which has been leased for 99 years to Bangladesh. It will be used by Bangladesh as a corridor to help it exercise its sovereignty over Dahagram and Angarpota.

Q. What amount of aid has been pledged to India by the Aid India Consortium for 1992-93?

Ans. \$ 7.2 billion.

Q. The Guinness Book of Records has recognised Air India for what achievement?

Ans. The book has recognised Air-India's historic and herculean effort of airlifting over a lakh stranded Indian Nationals from Amman during August-October 1990 as a record.

Q. Name the capital of Bosnia?

Ans. Sarajevo.

Q. Which district is the smallest district of India?

Ans. South Garo Hills in Meghalaya.

Q. Which day is celebrated as World Architecture Day?

Ans. July 1.

Q. Name Asia's oldest newspaper?

Ans. 'Bombay Samachar'.

Q. Which country was world's largest donor in 1991 of Official Development Assistance (ODA)?

Ans. Japan.

Q. What was Marshall Plan?

Ans. It consisted largely of US grants to help re-build Western Europe after World War II. It made the European governments divide up the aid and create a system to settle accounts and encourage trade among them. That helped cut down their need for dollars, the scarce hard currency of the time.

Q. Why was Kumher in the news recently?

Ans. Kumher was hit on June 6, 1992 by the worst ever caste carnage in the history of Rajasthan.

Q. Which day is observed as Doctors' Day?

Ans. July 1.

Q. What is *path kar*?

Ans. It is the toll tax introduced by a State which is levied on every entry into the State by all transport vehicles registered in other States.

Q. Name the youngest member of the Union Council of Ministers?

Ans. Ms Shelja. She is 29-year-old.

Q. What is 'Staanchart'?

Ans. It is the securities and investment division of Standard Chartered Bank which was involved in the 3,500-crore stock scam.

Q. In which year did first recorded Olympic Games take place?

Ans. 776 B.C.

Q. Where were the first modern Olympics held?

Ans. Athens.

Q. Which city holds the distinction of hosting Olympics on three occasions?

Ans. London (1908, 1944 and 1948).

Q. What do the five circles of the Olympic symbol represent?

Ans. Continents.

Q. What export target has been fixed by the Commerce Ministry for 1992-93?

Ans. \$ 20.13 billion. This is 12.8 per cent growth over last year's level of \$ 17.84 billion.

Q. Name the only Indian to have broken an Olympic record?

Ans. Milkha Singh in 400 metres race in 1960 Rome Olympics. The Olympic record then was 45.9 and Milkha Singh clocked 45.6 behind Otis Davis and Carl Kaufmann, both credited with 44.9 and Malcolm Spence of South Africa who breached the tape in 45.5. Incidentally, that was the last time the South Africans took part in Olympics.

Q. Which city played host to the 1992 G-7 summit?

Ans. Munich, Germany. G-7 is group of seven richest nations of the world. These are: USA, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Canada and Japan.

Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

ALH: Advanced Light Helicopter.

ISRO: Indian Space Research Organisation

NMV: Non-motorised Vehicles.

SAPTA: South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement.

SAR: Synthetic Aperture Radar.

AWARDS

Simon Boliver Award, 1992

THE prestigious international Simon Boliver Prize for 1992 has been awarded to the Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Kyi and former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere

Aung San Suu Kyi is the first woman to receive the US \$ 25,000 prize, instituted by UNESCO.

Simon Boliver Prize was first awarded in 1983 and its sole purpose is to reward "activity of outstanding merit".

Dr B.C. Roy eminent medical man award, 1991

DR K.S. Chugh, Chairman of the Department of Medicine at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh has been selected for the Dr B.C. Roy Memorial Eminent Medical man Award for 1991.

The most prestigious award for doctors in the country, it comprises Rs one lakh, a silver salver and a citation, and is given by the Medical Council of India in the memory of Dr B.C. Roy, whose birth and death anniversaries fall on July 1.

BOOKS

Diana, the true story

WRITTEN by former tabloid reporter, Andrew Morton, the book claims that the marriage of Prince Charles and Princess Diana is in problem. The book claims that

Diana made five half-hearted suicide attempts. The book has been an instant best-seller.

DEFENCE

First Advanced Light Helicopter of India

INDIA'S first multi-role, Advance Light Helicopter (ALH) rolled out from the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Complex in Bangalore on June 29, 1992 bringing the country at par with the latest helicopter technology.

The twin-engined multi-role helicopter is equipped with the latest state of art technology in aeroframe, blade and flight control. It would have bearingless tail rotor coupled with integrated dynamic system. The helicopter will be versatile enough to carry out flying over deserts, jungle terrain or the mountains, including the highest reaches of the Himalayas and Karakorams, in any weather.

Unlike the present IAF fleet of modified French Alouette it would have a versatile weapons platform for a full offensive capability and would fill a badly needed role of ground support in counter-insurgency operations in medium Himalayan heights, especially in Jammu and Kashmir.

ALH has been developed with the technical support from Euro-copter, Germany (formerly MBB, West Germany).

Apart from meeting the staff requirements of the Indian Air Force, Navy and Army it could cater to the commercial and emergency needs of the civil aviation.

Extensive use of composite fibreglass material would result in low radar signature thus increasing the survivability in Defence applications. And with stress on computers for aerodynamics it would ensure safety in emergency evacuation operations in case of natural calamities and disaster.

The unique feature of ALH is its capability to fly for 30 minutes even if all the lubricants go dry and continuation of forward flight, due to the large vertical fin, even if the tail rotor was damaged.

The roll hour of ALH assumes significance since helicopters of all types played a crucial role in the Gulf war and contributed to the Allied victory.

During "Desert Shield" and "Desert Storm", the doctrine for the integration of helicopters into the combined arms scenario was enacted and the result shattered all expectations.

The Gulf war for the first time, showed helicopter involvement in the capture of complete battlefield sectors and in the case of the navy, the capture of some islands. Helicopters also captured and then transported to the rear hundreds of enemy prisoners of war.

Operation "Desert Storm" was the largest helicopter operation since the Vietnam war and these choppers conducted more varied missions than any other piece of military equipment. The helicopter provided the ground commander with the ability to exploit the situation and manoeuvre massive fire power rapidly about the battlefield, striking the enemy where and when best suited.

PERSONS

Shelja, Ms

MS Shelja, Deputy Minister for Education and Culture is the youngest member of the Union Council of Ministers. She is the first woman from Haryana to get this honour and that too at a young age of 29. She was elected to Lok Sabha from Sirsa.

PLACES

Czechoslovakia

THE Czech and Slovak republics of Czechoslovakia have decided to split after 74 years of an often rocky

marriage. The process of split is to begin by September, 1992.

Born of the 19th-century nationalism, separated by Nazism and put back together under the Communists, Czechoslovakia has reflected the political philosophies that have wrecked havoc on central and eastern Europe for almost 100 years. Now it is proving unable to survive the strivings for national identity sweeping the region since communism fell in 1989.

Unlike Yugoslavia and parts of old Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia is not expected to dissolve in violence.

But the breakup poses dangers for both Czechs and Slovaks, and for Europe as a whole. Czechs will be threatened with more dominance, at least economically, by powerful neighbour Germany. Slovakia faces tensions with Hungary over the rights of 600,000 ethnic Hungarians, more than 10 per cent of its population of five million.

The Czechs, who outnumber Slovaks 2 to 1, are wealthier and worldlier, and have used their manufacturing skills and centuries old place in European culture to advantage since 1989. Tourists and businesses flock to the Czech capital, Prague. More than 90 per cent of foreign investment since 1989 has gone to the Czech lands of Bohemia, Moravia and part of Silesia.

The Slovaks, traditionally more rural and Roman Catholic, face even more economic disruption from the split. That is the price they will pay for a separate identity they knew only in a dubious Nazi puppet State in World War II.

A separate Slovakia would face Ukraine to the east, Poland to the North and a potentially unfriendly Hungary to the south.

PROJECTS

First-ever rice straw fuelled power plant

INDIA has achieved a major breakthrough in tapping non-conventional energy sources with the commissioning of the world's first thermal power station utilising rice straw as fuel.

The 10-MW power station has been set up by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited at Jalkheri in Patiala, Punjab.

The Fluidised Bed Boiler (FBB), one of the main equipment of this power station, has been indigenously designed, developed, manufactured and supplied by the BHEL's Tiruchi plant.

RESEARCH

Indus Valley script deciphered

THE script, used during the Indus Valley Civilization, is claimed to have been deciphered by Mr N.K. Verma, a scholar of Bhagalpur in Bihar.

In a research paper read in this year's Indian History Congress he said that he had been able to collect 188 letters of the script and with their help he could read all the intact inscriptions of Mohenjodaro, numbering about 600.

The number of letters is as high as 188 because many letters have more than one diagram though for each phoneme, both vowel and consonant, there is a definite symbol (letter).

Mr Verma, an executive magistrate, stumbled upon a chance to begin his research work when he visited the tribal village at Kahuar in Santhal Parganas of Bihar during a spring festival 10-years-ago.

The village priest took him to a few *pooja* 'khonds' where prayers are offered to deities and he was taken aback to find there tribal symbols strikingly similar to those of Mohenjodaro.

Tribal girls were then dancing and singing "Karam viniti" (collection of ancient songs) one of which further set his imagination on fire. The song was about their ancestors who lived in *Arai Nai Disham* (land of seven rivers or undivided Punjab) which was invaded by foreigners.

Several Indus script words are used by the Santhal tribals in their folk songs, which also speak of their migration from the Indus valley to their present settlement in South Bihar. Mr Pathak stresses the distinction between scriptography and lin-

guistics and states that decoding the Harappan script was no more a problem but it is the job of the linguists to find meaning and origin of the words deciphered.

Experts would like to establish archaeologically that the Santhal had indeed migrated from the Indus valley to as far as Bihar, and also its route. Secondly, it is felt that in a period when literacy was not high, if the tradition of a script was carried from the Indus valley to Bihar, the traditional food habits must also have been carried. Archaeological evidence of food habits in the form of potteries belonging to the period have been found in several places but have yet to be unearthed in the area inhabited by the Santhals.

SPACE RESEARCH

ISRO tests new radar

ISRO has successfully tested the bread-board model of an airborne version of the Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) developed at ISRO's Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad.

The imagery obtained during the test flight on the aircraft of the national remote sensing agency has demonstrated its superior quality. The successful development of this model is an important step in mastering microwave remote sensing technology.

SAR is an active microwave imaging system which is proposed to be carried on board future Indian remote sensing satellites. It generates imagery after complex mathematical processing from the echoes received when microwave pulses are transmitted towards the earth's surface.

It has the advantage of providing imagery even in cloudy conditions and during both day and night. SAR images differ from those taken with visible light as they represent electrical and geometrical features of the imaged surface.

Columbia's 13-day mission

THE US space shuttle, *Columbia*, blasted into space on June 26, 1992 on a 13-day mission to conduct some 30 scientific experiments. This mission was the longest in 18 years

during which tests were conducted to lay the groundwork for the permanent space station, *Freedom*.

The crew's first experiment, which extended throughout the mission, involved growing protein crystals in a 296-km high orbit. Scientists hope it will help develop improved drugs and more powerful semiconductor chips.

Inside their \$1 billion European-built laboratory, the astronauts studies the effects of weightlessness on their bodies, set controlled fires and worked on a space garden.

Other passengers aboard Columbia—several dozen shrimp, wasp embryos and tiny brown worms—were studied for mutation and other effects of spaceflight.

An experiment to ease astronauts transition to gravity, on their return to earth, was also conducted.

Blackholes hold key to earth's rebirth

RECENT evidence that blackholes exist at the centre of nearby galaxies has sparked fears among some experts that earth and the whole universe of which it is a part will one day be wiped out and become a blackhole.

The Hubble space telescope provided astronomers their first direct view of an immense ring of dust that fuels a massive blackhole at the heart of the spiral Galaxy M 51, one of the nearest and brightest neighbours of the Milky Way galaxy. Images obtained by the orbiting telescope also revealed a thick density of stars at the centre of another nearby galaxy called M32.

A blackhole is actually a giant star that has collapsed upon itself after its nuclear fire has died out, causing the star to become so small and so dense that not even light can escape. No one can actually see a blackhole because it emits no light.

According to Mr Wener Israel of the University of Alberta an astronaut flying into a blackhole could no longer send any messages to the outside world once he passed the hole's first boundary. But he could still receive signals from beyond the

boundary, and see stars shining overhead.

The universe itself, according to scientists, is currently expanding from an initial explosion called the "Big Bang". But it is possible that the universe is not expanding fast enough to escape the pull of gravity, and one day could collapse upon itself to form one giant blackhole, wiping out all life on earth.

According to Mr Wener, at that point there would be an enormous inflation of matter, and a new universe would be born far larger than its predecessors.

The universe will thus be born, shrink and then be reborn again and expand. "It is possible" said Mr Wener, "Our universe started in this way from a much smaller one."

MISCELLANY

The smallest district

SOUTH Garo Hills in Meghalaya is the smallest district of the country with a population density of 34 persons per square km.

Nestled in the extreme south of the State, overlooking Bangladesh, the district was inaugurated by Union Coal and Labour Minister Purno A. Sangma on June 18, 1992. It consists of 539 villages with headquarters in Baghmara, and a population of 62,354 sprawling over 1857 square km.

Devoid of any college and industrial unit, the district has only eight high schools, 20 middle schools and 271 primary schools. The district, though backward, it not shorn of flora and fauna as it enjoys the pride of possessing a variety of wildlife. The district has rich mineral deposits like coal and lime-stone.

A-I gets a place in Guinness Book

THE Guinness Book of Records has recognised Air-India's historic and herculean effort of airlifting over a lakh stranded Indian nationals from Amman during August-October 1990 as a record.

Air-India had, under operation airlift, evacuated over 1.11 lakh people from Amman to Bombay—a

distance of 4,117 km. It operated 488 flights in association with Indian Airlines, and the epoch-making evacuation operation lasted 59 days.

Survey of India turns 225 years old

SURVEY of India (SOI), the country's oldest scientific institution, founded in a small room in Calcutta in 1767, celebrated its 225th anniversary on June 30, 1992.

SOI began as a small department to assist the East India Company to survey the land acquired by it and help collect revenue and annex more territories. Now it is the country's premier organisation in surveying and mapping.

SOI officers and staff have not only penetrated virgin and uninhabited areas but actually measured on ground the longest meridional arc from Kanyakumari to Himalayas. This measurement helped to determine the shape and size of the earth.

The organisation gave up surveying of land for revenue purposes in 1905 and turned full-time attention to mapping the country.

After independence, SOI's stress was on development surveys approved by the Planning Commission. After the enactment of the Weights and Measures Act in 1956, the Survey was given the task of converting the maps into the metric scale.

The department was expanded to meet the requirement of defence ministry to prepare border surveys. Primary surveys on 1:50,000 scale for the entire country were completed in June 1977. SOI says this was a unique achievement as many of the developing countries have yet to achieve it.

World's smallest colour TV

CASIO Computer Company has announced that it is set to start marketing what it claims is the world's smallest and lightest colour TV. The CV-1 went on sale in Tokyo on July 11 at US \$ 300.

The TV set weighs only 170 grams and is 2.4 centimetres thick, 9.1 centimetres high and 6.0 centimetres wide.

SPORTS

OLYMPICS

Mascot of Barcelona Olympics

Cobi the cubist cartoon dog—mascot of Barcelona Olympics—has been created by Javier Mariscal.



Visitors to Barcelona need only travel a few hundred feet from the airport to be bombarded by Cobi bill boards, Cobi drinking a coke, Cobi wearing ray-ban sunglasses, Cobi pecking at a brother typewriter, Cobi sipping beer.

Yet Cobi, whose name derives from the Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee (BOOC), is not your average mascot. Cobi is the first Olympic mascot to be sad, to be crying, to be depressed.

He's like a chameleon. He can be a baby, a poor little boy, a druggie, a guy who is cleaning your car windows, an athlete, an idealist carrying the Olympic flag, or a disillusioned youth.

Mariscal, a social critic and first class cynic, proudly points out Cobi is not like a super athlete or a bouncing bundle of joy such as Sam the Eagle, the 1987 Los Angeles Olympics mascot.

BOXING

World Heavyweight Championship

Evander Holyfield retained his undisputed world heavyweight championship with a 12-round

unanimous decision over former champion Larry Holmes.

Holyfield, 29, clearly won the fight but was unable to land many damaging punches on the wily 42-year-old Holmes, who spent much of the bout laying on the ropes and fighting defensively.

CHESS

Olympiad

Russia won the men's Chess Olympiad with a round to spare at the Philippine International Convention Centre in Manila.

Favourites Georgia won the women's Chess Olympiad team gold after registering a 2-1 verdict against Czechoslovakia.

India blew up their chance to figure in the top bracket after going down 1.5-2.5 to third seeded Ukraine in the last round of the Men's Chess Olympiad.

Final Standings:

Men: Russia (39); Uzbekistan (35); Armenia (34.5); United States (34); Iceland, Croatia, Latvia (33.5); England, Georgia, Ukraine (33); Israel, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Switzerland, Germany, Czechoslovakia (32.5).

Women: Georgia (30.5); Ukraine (29); China (28.5); Hungary (26.5); Russia (26); Azerbaijan, Romania (25); United States, Kazakhstan (24.5); Latvia, Estonia, Czechoslovakia (24); Bulgaria, Poland (23.5).

Anand improves his rating

Viswanathan Anand has improved his ELO rating by 20 points and retains his fifth placing worldwide in the new rating list of the world chess federation.

The following is the list of top 10 men players:

1. Garry Kasparov (Russia) 2790, 2. Vassily Ivandhuk (Ukraine) 2720, 3. Anatoly Karpov (Russia) 2715, 4. Alexie Shirov (Latvia) 2710, 5. Viswanathan Anand (India) 2690, 6.

Boris Gelfand (Russia) 2685, 7. Nigel Short (England) 2680, 8. Evgeny Bareev (Russia) 2670, 9. Jan Timman (Netherlands) 2665, 10. Valery Salov (Russia) 2660.

CRICKET

England-Pakistan Test Series

Second Test: Wasim Akram scored a match-winning 45 not out to follow his own inspirational bowling as Pakistan beat England after one of the most dramatic days in the Lord's cricket Test.

Akram steered his team to a two-wicket victory in the second Test, and a 1-0 lead in the five-match series, in the last scheduled over of the fourth day.

FOOTBALL

European Cup

Denmark, the little team which did not even qualify for the European championship, wrote the soccer romance of the century when they humbled world champions Germany 2-0 to win the title at Gothenburg, Sweden.

Winning their place only as last minute substitutes for Yugoslavia, the Danes arrived in Sweden unprepared. They came to Gothenburg's Ullevi Stadium with more than half their side struggling desperately to overcome injuries.

1998 World Cup in France

France has won the right to stage the 1998 World Cup, foiling Morocco's bid to become the first African nation to host soccer's premier tournament.

FIFA readmits S. Africa

South Africa were readmitted to the International football federation (FIFA) on July 3, 1992 after an absence of 18 years.

South Africa were expelled from FIFA for their apartheid policies in 1976.

HOCKEY

Indian team for Barcelona Olympics

Goalkeepers: Ashish Ballal and A B. Subbaiah.

Full backs: Pargat Singh (Captain), Jagdev Singh and C.S Poonacha.

Halves: Harpreet Singh, Sukhjot Singh, Shakeel Ahmed and Ajit Lakra.

Forwards: Mukesh Kumar, Jude Felix, Ravi Nayakar, Jagbir Singh, Dhanraj Pillay, Darryl D'Souza and Didar Singh

Stand-byes: B.C. Poonacha (goalkeeper), Cornelius D'Costa and Anil Aldrin (full-backs), Sabu Varkey, Sandeep Somesh (halves) and Praveen Kumar (forward)

SHOOTING

South Asian Championship

Indian shooters made a clean sweep and ended the final day of the South Asian shooting championship

at Colombo, Sri Lanka, capturing four golds, two silvers and two bronze medals.

Indian marksmen swept the individual and team titles in men's standard pistol and rapid fire pistol events, which helped them take the top spot ahead with 27 golds, 19 silver and eight bronze medals.

TENNIS

Wimbledon Championships, 1992

Andre Agassi's dream of winning a Grand Slam title came true at last when he beat Goran Ivanisevic to win an exciting Wimbledon final on July 5, 1992

Three times a Grand Slam finalist before, and three times a loser, the American had looked in danger of squandering his chance of glory yet again when he threw away the fourth set in just 17 minutes. But he hung on, playing the best tennis of his life, to become the lowest-ranked seed, at 12, to lift the Wimbledon

trophy.

Though Ivanisevic served 37 aces, taking his tally for the tournament to 206.

Steffi Graf shrugged off three rain interruptions and a disappointing challenge from world number one, Monica Seles, to win her fourth Wimbledon women's singles title in five years 6-2, 6-1.

It was the top seed's first defeat in six Grand Slam finals.

John McEnroe won the doubles with his new partner Michael Stich. They defeated Jim Grabb and Richey Reneberg, the fourth seeds.

It was McEnroe's seventh doubles title and Stich's first. McEnroe and Peter Fleming won the event six years in a row from 1979 to '84.

In the women's doubles final Gigi Fernandez (US) and Natalia Zvereva (CIS) beat Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia) and Larisa Navchenko-Neiland (Latvia), 6-4, 6-1, to win the title.

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Appointments Etc

Appointed; Elected Etc

Yit Hak Rabin He has been elected Prime Minister of Israel. He belongs to the Labor Party.

Burhamuddin Rabbani He has taken over as President of Afghanistan.

Cassam Ullman He is the new President of Mauritius.

Ali Kafi He has been appointed President of Algeria.

Gen Fidel Ramos He has been elected President of Philippines.

Ciriaco De Mita He is the new Prime Minister of Italy.

Vaclav Klaus He has been appointed Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia.

K C Pant He has been appointed Chairman of 10th Finance Commission.

Ramon Serey He has been appointed India's Ambassador to Russia.

P K Singh He is being sent as India's first Ambassador to Israel.

Blumsohn Oza He is India's Ambassador to South Korea.

Alan Narasimha He is India's Am-

bassador to Mexico.

Sudhir Deb Ray He has been appointed India's Ambassador to Kazakhstan.

Kamlesh Sharma He is being appointed India's Ambassador to Ukraine.

B M C Nair He is being appointed India's Ambassador to Singapore.

L Vasudev He has been appointed Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Airlines.

Resigned

Sibghatullah Mojaddidi Caretaker President of Afghanistan.

Waldemar Paulak Prime Minister of Poland.

P Chidambaram Minister of State for Commerce.

Died

Mohammed Boudiaf President of Algeria. He was assassinated.

Maharajapuram Santhanam Renowned Carnatic musician. He was 64.

New Ministers in Union Council of Ministers

Ministers of State

Sukh Ram Planning and Programme Implementation and new Department of Non Conventional Energy.

R L Bhatia External Affairs.

Ms Sukhbans Kaur Bhinder Tourism.

Col Ram Singh Wasteland Development in Ministry of Rural Development.

Ms Krishna Sahi Industrial Development.

Deputy Ministers

Ms Shelja Education and Cul-

ture

Portfolio Changes

Ministers of State

P J Kurien Industry and Commerce (Mr P V Nataraj Rao has taken over the Commerce Portfolio following the resignation of Mr P Chidambaram).

H R Bhardwaj Law from Programme Implementation.

PA Sangma Coal & Independent charge of Labour Ministry.

PR Kumaramangalam Science and Technology and Parliamentary Affairs (earlier he also held Law).

EVENTS

JUNE

11—US decides to accept Rio declaration of environmental principles.

13—The United Nations launches the most ambitious phase of its Cambodian peace programme—that of cantoning, disarming and demobilising 70 per cent of the armed forces of rival factions.

14—Rio summit ends after adopting

the Rio declaration, agenda 21 and the declaration on Principles on Forests.

16—USA announces fresh missile control sanctions against India, China, Iraq, North Korea and 17 other countries.

—USA and Russia sign an accord to make further drastic reduction in the nuclear warheads of the two countries, going beyond the Strategic Arms Reduction

Treaty (START).

18—The bilateral talks between USA and India begin in New Delhi.

—General Fidel Ramos, former Defence Secretary of Philippines, is officially declared elected President of Philippines.

19—Ireland says 'Yes' to Maastricht treaty.

20—The Czech and Slovak leaders sign pact to split Czechoslovakia in two independent countries.

24—Labour Party in Israel scores a stunning upset victory in the General Elections.

26—The Tin Bigha corridor is formally leased out to Bangladesh.

28—The Afghan caretaker President Mr Sibghatullah Mojaddidi hands over power to a Mujahideen leadership council.

29—President of Algeria Mr Mohammed Boudiaf is assassinated.

JULY

1—Transporters all over India go on an indefinite strike jeopardising the movement of essential commodities.

4—Violence mars *bandh* in Gujarat. More than 21 persons are killed.

5—The Union government decides to scrap Octroi in Union Territories.

6—The government decides to open the Metro TV Channel and IM Radio to private producers.

7—Transporters call-off strike unconditionally.

9—Minister of State for Commerce, Mr P Chidambaram resigns owning responsibility for investing in shares of Fairgrowth Financial Services Ltd (FFSL), currently under investigation for alleged involvement in the multi crore securities scandal.

—Government agrees to constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe the 3540-crore stock scam.

10—INSAT II-A is launched successfully from Kourou French Guiana by Ariane Rocket.

Round-up of National Affairs

MAJOR EVENTS IN BRIEF

Policies of drift and consensus—Poor state of parties—Worsening law and order situation—Militancy and terrorism—Secessionist trends—Increase in violence—Problem of human rights—Ups and downs in foreign relations—India-Pak tensions

The past year was notable more for policies of delay and drift besides moderation and reconciliation than for firm, decisive and speedy decisions on policy implementation. As in the preceding two years, the country had a minority government at the Centre but the hopelessly fragmented opposition in Parliament could not muster enough strength to launch any full-scale toppling drive or indeed make any serious move to threaten or censure the ruling Congress Government. The Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao, the 'consensus man', remained unperturbed by the occasional pinpricks and the darts and arrows flung at him by his critics.

Displaying immense patience and tolerance of criticism, he sought to win over certain non-Congress elements who were discontented and disillusioned with their party leadership. In fact, except for the BJP, the opposition parties suffered not only from low strength but also from low calibre leadership.

The wholly unsatisfactory standard of organisation in almost all parties have led to glaring indiscipline in the ranks. The Tirupati session of the Congress this year and its aftermath confirmed this. Directives remained mostly neglected or were bypassed. So, confusion reigned supreme instead of the much needed clarity of vision and policy. Internal squabbles and the struggle for power continued, ambitions remained unfulfilled.

Problems Unsolved: An inevitable sequel to these features of the dismal political scenario was that the country's main problems remained unsolved. The general law and order situation worsened in several parts of the country, notably Bihar and U.P. not to mention J & K, and Punjab. There were relatively minor communal riots at a couple of places, including U.P., Delhi and Rajasthan.

For the deteriorating law and order situation, the murders, the kidnappings, the soaring crime graph, the assaults on women and the general insecurity of life and property, it is the ineffectiveness of the Government and the disenchantment of the people that have been largely responsible. There are corrupt, unscrupulous persons and criminals at most levels of the administration, apart of course from the all too familiar feature—gross inefficiency and utter complacency.

The much-needed, resolute commitment to ensure justice and basic human rights to citizens in all parts of the country, irrespective of caste, creed, religion or political beliefs, has been missing. The Government lacks credibility and the masses have very little confidence in its ability to ensure safety of life and property. No wonder the criminal gangs and mafias dominate in countless places, rural and urban. As usual, honesty and fair play have been at a discount. The hardships of the masses have not been alleviated. For millions life is still a nightmare.

Militancy and Terrorism: The Government's biggest failure has been its inability to check the growing militancy and terrorism. The worst affected States still are J & K and Punjab where the spate of killings and kidnappings, bomb blasts and other acts of utter lawlessness, continually disrupt normal life. Entire families have been gunned down. In many areas it is the writ of the militants that runs, the terrorists use the gun with abandon, they possess sophisticated weapons far superior to those used

by the police and the para-military forces. The farce of elections in Punjab last February and the installation of a 'popular' government did not improve the situation.

The menace of terrorism has spread to U.P., Assam and other north-eastern areas besides Andhra Pradesh. There have been cases of terrorist depredations in Bombay also. In recent weeks several militants have been killed in police encounters and some have been arrested. But somehow their number goes on increasing. Thanks to the abetment and active assistance from across the border, there is little sign of an early end to the menace of terrorism. The Naxalites renew their lawless activity every now and then in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

Then there is the trend towards secessionism. The aggressive Akali groups in Punjab have reiterated their demand for a sovereign, independent State of Sikhs. The Jharkhand tribals want an independent entity (the Central Government agreed recently to establish a General Council for the tribals) and so does the ULFA in Assam and the discontented groups in some other areas. At some places there are allegations of police support, collusion and connivance with the lawless elements, thus compounding the problem. Security has, nominally, become a cruel joke in almost all parts of the country. Police excesses and flagrant violations of human rights have brought much discredit to India from Amnesty International and other foreign agencies, besides vigilant sections of the Indian people.

Foreign Relations: During the past year some important developments took place in foreign relations. The Government of India has consistently pursued the policy of peace and cordiality with all countries, especially our close neighbours. The attempts to mend the fences with China (Prime Minister Li Peng's friendly talks in New Delhi last winter and President Venkataraman's 6-day trip to Beijing and other cities in

May this year, besides other friendly exchanges at official levels) have been successful. The basic issue of the border, however, remains unsolved

The misunderstandings between India and Nepal, which had persisted for years, have been largely removed through friendly discussions with the democratically elected regime in Kathmandu and the visit of the new Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr Koirala, to New Delhi. A new trade and transit agreement was signed during his talks

There has been a distinct improvement in the relations with Bangladesh, following the visit of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to Delhi. Though some problems between the two countries remain unsolved, there have been accords on the ticklish issue of sharing river waters. India has done its best to accommodate Dhaka's viewpoint as far as it could, in respect of the Farakka barrage issue, for instance. There have been agreements also in regard to the Tin Bigha dispute and the Chakma refugees.

Indo-Pak Tensions: A disconcerting aspect of the country's foreign relations has, as usual, been the tensions with Pakistan, which is persisting with its policy of actively assisting militants operating in Kashmir and Punjab. All the assurances of cordiality and friendship given by Pakistan leaders and officials continue to sound hypocritical because of the wide gap between word and deed. Pakistan's assertions on Kashmir and the ceaseless attempts to internationalise the issue in violation of the Simla Agreement have intensified the tensions. During the past year the nuclear tangle caused further strains in the relations. The story was repeated at the Rio Earth summit where the two Prime Ministers held brief talks on matters of mutual interest.

India's relations with the US had several ups and downs during the past few months. After a short period of cordiality over defence cooperation plans, the U.S. launched an offensive against India in respect of trade, patent laws and copyright, the Russian rocket technology transfer move and allied matters. India's hopes of having the USA as a reliable friend in place of the former USSR seem to be vanishing

India has established good relations

with Russia and other Soviet republics. The Government has assured friendship with the new regime in war-ravaged Afghanistan and extended aid for rehabilitation of the Afghans.

Tensions no longer exist between New Delhi and Colombo which has assured cooperation in meeting the LTTE menace following this country's ban on this militant organisation because of its suspected hand in Mr Rajiv Gandhi's assassination.

Details of Events

STALEMATE IN KASHMIR

* Apart from the occasional kidnappings of senior officials and a blast now and then in Srinagar, there has been no major development in Kashmir Valley, least of all on the political front. The distressingly familiar situation, characterised by the dominance of the militants and the ineffective civil administration continues, with little hope of an early switchover to normalcy. The killings, kidnappings, occasional blasts and other subversive acts continue. There is no evidence yet of a definite political initiative and of elections to the State Assembly. A proxy war is in progress with Pakistan continuing to provide weapons and training for subversion to Kashmiri youth.

Since the beginning of 1992, scores of persons, detained on suspicion, have been released. Among them are some political leaders. There have been inter-group clashes in the Valley. Despite efforts for a patch-up between different militant outfits, incidents continue.

A cynical view is that the Government is holding the State at gunpoint. There has been much criticism of the security forces because of their excesses and indulgence in lawless activity.

ACCORD ON ECONOMIC CRITERION

* During the year Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao called upon the Chief Ministers, Governors and Lt Governors to evolve an economic criterion for reservation of government jobs for members of the poor and other economically backward sections of society not covered by any

of the existing schemes of reservation. The economic criterion needs to be determined with utmost caution and care, taking into account all relevant factors. The reservation policy, as announced on September 25, 1991, was sub-judice before a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court and the hearing was at an advanced stage.

One of the issues to be adjudicated upon by the Supreme Court related to the application of an economic criterion to the reservation policy for backward classes. The Government had communicated to the court that it intended to determine an economic criterion after evolving, if possible, a national consensus. The economic criterion should be determined in such a manner that the most deserving sections of the backward classes were not left out and at the same time, it did not leave the doors too wide open to enable affluent sections of the target groups to grab the jobs

CONSTITUTION BILLS ADOPTED

* The Constitution (71st amendment) Bill to facilitate fresh delimitation of constituencies was adopted by the Rajya Sabha on April 29 after the Government's declaration that it had accepted the long-standing demand for rotation of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes.

The House also adopted the Constitution (76th Amendment) Bill seeking to include Assembly members of the Union Territories of Delhi and Pondicherry in the electoral college for the election of the President. Both the Bills were passed unanimously

The Union Government intends to set up a Delimitation Commission soon. It would be headed by a sitting or a former Supreme Court judge. The other members would be coopted by Parliament and Legislative Assemblies. The Government had accepted the recommendation of the Committee that went into electoral reforms about a fresh delimitation of constituencies.

74th Amendment: The Lok Sabha on December 20 passed a Constitution Amendment Bill paving the

way for the establishment of a Legislative Assembly in Delhi with a seven-member Council of Ministers. The Bill was adopted by an overwhelming majority. The Constitution (74th) Amendment Bill vests with the Centre the powers to legislate on matters of public order, police and land. The Chief Minister would be appointed by the President.

The Bill was introduced after much political debate over the structure and powers of the Assembly. Delhi would continue to be a Union Territory. The Delhi Metropolitan Council will cease to exist.

ELECTORAL REFORMS

* The Central Government has undertaken an in-depth study of wide-ranging electoral reforms proposed by the Election Commission. These include the suggestion to make booth capturing a cognisable offence, reduction of poll campaign period from 20 to 14 days, annual auditing of political party funds and disqualification of candidates found violating the model code of conduct.

The Government will be holding discussions with leaders of political parties in Parliament before finalising its decision on the recommendations of the Election Commission. In a bid to curtail frivolous candidature, the Commission has suggested increase in the security deposit. An important recommendation is an amendment to Section 29-A of the Representation of People Act, 1951, relating to registration of political parties. The Commission wants a special provision for de-registration of a political party for violating its oath on the Constitution and its secular character.

To counter booth capturing, the Commission has suggested that top-rank political leaders who harbour proclaimed offenders and were seen openly in their company should be proceeded with under the law. The Election Commission should also be empowered to countermand an election due to booth capturing. The Commission has suggested that every registered political party should publish its accounts annually; these should be audited by specified

agencies. Non-maintenance of the true account of election expenses or not filing of its true copy within the prescribed time, should be punishable with imprisonment and fine; on conviction the candidate should be disqualified for six years.

True Autonomy Sought for E.C.: The Chief Election Commissioner, Mr T.N. Seshan, called on March 30 for "true autonomy" to the Commission to check electoral malpractices effectively. He was addressing a seminar on "Electoral reforms—Key to social transformation". Mr Seshan urged that the Election Commission should be strengthened at various levels. He criticised the extensive use of the police to ensure fair elections. Money power, corrupt practices and violence were the dominating factors of almost every election in the country.

The Home Minister emphasised that it was impossible for the Government or the Election Commission to make any headway in checking electoral malpractices without full cooperation of all the political parties. Cases of violence and booth capturing, he claimed had been limited to some pockets. Certain State governments had done commendable work in ensuring peaceful elections. But there was violence even in the June, 1992, by-elections.

VIOLENCE OVER CAUVERY WATERS

* Inter-State disputes over river waters have been common in this country. The dispute that was much in the news during the past year was over the sharing of Cauvery waters. There has been considerable violence in Karnataka over the issue of these waters, the victims being the Tamils residing in Karnataka State. The law and order situation in the State went from bad to worse. The tension between the two States mounted to disconcerting proportions.

Karnataka declined to accept the verdict of the Tribunal, while Tamil Nadu insisted that the Tribunal decision be implemented without delay. The Karnataka Government issued an ordinance to counter the decision. The Central Government, after considerable pressure from

Tamil Nadu, notified the verdict in the gazette, thus making it fully legal. This led to considerable resentment in Karnataka and caused much violence. Thousands of people took refuge in Tamil Nadu and many lives were lost in the disturbances. The Centre had to send para-military forces to Karnataka to quell the rioting. By the end of December, 1991, the number of refugees was stated to have risen to 70,000. Many of them have since returned to their homes.

On December 31 the National Integration Council (NIC) appealed to the governments and people of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to end the senseless violence over the river waters issue and restore normalcy. Leaders of most political parties also expressed concern over the violence.

Addressing the Council meeting summoned specially to discuss the Punjab and Kashmir issues, the Prime Minister called for a determined and united fight against forces of terrorism and secessionism. Terrorism and militancy had not only continued unabated but was also trying to establish a foothold in new areas.

ARMY OPERATIONS IN ASSAM

* Troops fanned out in six districts of Assam on April 1, 1992, with the beginning of a renewed Army operation against hardliners in the truncated ULFA. The operation, a sequel to "Operation Rhino" which had been suspended on January 14, started in some districts to flush out secessionist elements. Simultaneously, the Government held parleys with a splinter group of the ULFA. Now that the ULFA has formally split, the Government has decided to hold negotiations with the faction willing to talk and to use force against those opposed to the peace efforts. The top functionaries of the ULFA have rejected the bid for talks and have reiterated their resolve to continue the struggle for a "sovereign Assam".

ASSAM-NAGALAND BORDER DISPUTE

* Assam-Nagaland tensions along their common border have again

been renewed. The two States are locking horns over the possession of a cluster of disputed settlements in the Doyang forest reserve. Reports from the volatile zone say that fear has again gripped the villagers amidst threats and counter-threats from either side. That all is not well in the disputed areas was evident from the Assam Governor, Mr Loknath Misra's address to the State Assembly recently. More than 5,000 sq. km of disputed areas have been under adverse possession of the Nagaland Government. The Assam Chief Minister, Mr Hiteswar Saikia, has accused Nagaland of illegally occupying 1,01,750 hectares of Assam territory.

PRESIDENT'S RULE IN NAGALAND

* The Central Government once again took action under Article 356 of the Constitution and imposed President's rule on Nagaland on April 3 because of the breakdown of the law and order and the "fluid" party position in the State. The Opposition in Parliament strongly disapproved of the action and described it as "unwarranted and indefensible, especially when the State Governor, in his report to the Centre, had not recommended any such drastic action". Some MPs described the Centre's action in Nagaland as "rape of democracy in the sensitive border State". Critics also alleged that imposition of President's rule was a clear abuse of Article 356.

A Central spokesman, however, put in a strong defence and argued that the Government had no alternative when the Chief Minister himself had stated that purposeful administration could not be carried on with Ministers and legislators pressurising him for plum posts and the level of insurgency increasing in the State.

CRISIS IN MANIPUR ENDS

* Central rule, imposed in the turbulent and highly sensitive State of Manipur ended on April 8; a new ministry under the leadership of R.K. Dorendra Singh was sworn in. President's rule in the State lasted 83 days. The former Chief Minister, Mr Reishang Keishang, was sworn in as

Deputy Chief Minister. But political uncertainty continues because of the constantly changing political alignments and the shifting loyalties. To these factors has to be added the disqualification of some M.L.A.s a few days earlier.

Security measures have been tightened in Manipur in view of a fresh spurt of violence by insurgent outfits, including the banned National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) and the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Armed guerrillas have infiltrated into the State from across the border in the recent past.

ELECTION FARCE IN PUNJAB

* The Central Government fulfilled its commitment to hold elections in Punjab in February 1992, whatever the odds. But the voting percentage was very low—the lowest ever—because of the boycott of the poll by the Akalis. The polling was conducted under the tightest security. The Congress was swept into power with a record three-fourths of the total number of seats. It won 87 seats in the 117-member Assembly.

The Congress made a near-clean sweep in the Lok Sabha poll by winning 12 of the 13 seats. The only seat it lost was Ferozepore where its nominee lost to the Bahujan Samaj nominee. After a gap of 57 months, the Congress formed a popular government in the State on Feb. 25.

The Akali Dal (K), the sole Akali Dal participant, fared badly. It could win only three seats, including the unopposed election of its chairman of its Parliamentary Board, Capt Amarinder Singh. The BJP also suffered a setback. It could win only six seats.

Final-party position: Total seats 117; Congress 87, BSP 9, BJP 6, CPI 4, Akali Dal (K) 3, CPM 1, Janata Dal 1, UCPI 1, Independents and others 5.

The unprecedented victory of the Congress in the Punjab elections also put it in a position to capture all the seven Rajya Sabha seats from the State filled between February and July. The victory of 12 Congressmen from Punjab in the Lok Sabha poll

increased the party's strength in that House to 243. The Lok Sabha's effective strength at the moment is 537. The ruling party needs the support of 269 members for a clear majority.

ORDINANCE CUTS CAMPAIGN PERIOD

* The President promulgated on January 19 an ordinance reducing the campaigning period for the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections from a minimum of 20 days to 14 days. Evidently, the campaign period was reduced after assessing the overall law and order situation in Punjab. The ordinance, however, stated that the amendment to Section 30 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, would apply to the entire country.

U.S. OFFENSIVE AGAINST INDIA

* India has lodged a strong protest against the Bush Administration's action in suspending duty-free treatment on the export of its pharmaceuticals and chemicals in retaliation for New Delhi's alleged failure to protect US intellectual property rights. President Bush issued the proclamation to this effect on April 29. The American trade sanction was unjust and untimely.

Earlier, the U.S. indentified India for the second year in succession, along with Thailand and Taiwan, under its trade law provision "Special 301" as a trading partner that denied market access and protection for US intellectual property rights, such as patents, trade marks and copyright. MPs suggested that Parliament should pass a unanimous resolution taking exception to the arm-twisting methods of the USA.

The test launch of India's intermediate range ballistic missile 'Agni' on May 29 was used by the nuclear haves to impose further sanctions against its space programmes. On June 16 the U.S. announced fresh sanctions against India, China, Iraq and 17 other countries.

US concern: American concern over India's development of Agni and Prithvi missiles could be viewed at three levels, according to a senior

defence analyst. The first could be concern over global proliferation of advanced weaponry and ballistic missiles and the effect it can have on the US force projection capacities. Secondly, the US looks at the impact of emerging Indian missile potential in the Indian Ocean region and the US interests in the area in particular. It also perceives future Indian capacity to graduate from an IRBM technology demonstrator to capability on nuclear inter-continental ballistic missile.

U.S. wants India to attend summit: The US has been pressing India to agree to a five-nation summit to achieve a nuclear-weapons free zone in South Asia as an interim step towards the ultimate goal of making both India and Pakistan sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. Washington had entered into a "productive dialogue" with New Delhi on the nuclear issue with the recent US visit of the Indian Foreign Secretary J N Dixit.

Participating in a live satellite TV programme, "Worldnet" the US Under-Secretary of State for regional security, Mr Reginald Bartholomew rejected a suggestion by a Pakistani expert that Washington should not focus on the Pakistani nuclear programme as long as the Kashmir issue remained unresolved.

INDIA'S STAND ON NUCLEAR ISSUE

* India has reiterated that the only realistic solution to the nuclear proliferation is to have a global approach to the problem—an approach which is universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory. Regional arrangements, bilateral agreements, nuclear weapons, free zones and other technical moves which have become popular during the last two decades have failed to check the number of nuclear weapons from growing qualitatively and quantitatively, the Indian representative told the UN Disarmament Commission in April. Nor have they succeeded in preventing an increase in the number of countries with divided control over nuclear arsenals.

Calling for transparency in im-

plementation of decisions to reduce nuclear weapons, the spokesman said it is India's conviction that fissile material from the decommissioned warheads needs to be placed under international safeguards for use exclusively for peaceful purposes. He commended the action plan put forward at the 1988 special session on disarmament for elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in a systematic rational and practical time-frame. The plan calls upon all nuclear States to accept equal obligations without discrimination and provides for a stage by stage achievement of a nuclear weapon free world.

INDIA-PAK N-RACE?

* The CIA Director, Mr Robert Gates, contended earlier this year that both India and Pakistan have nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes and are now going chemical as well. While they may not have assembled the weapons for stockpiling for safety reasons they have all the parts for a nuclear weapon and the means to deliver them. In South Asia, the arms race between India and Pakistan is a major concern. Not only do both countries have nuclear weapon and ballistic missile programmes, they have recently pursued chemical weapons. These programmes are particularly worrisome because of constant tension and conflict in Kashmir.

He felt that nuclear weapons could be assembled quickly, both countries have combat aircraft that could be modified to deliver them in a crisis. Both have publicly agreed to certain confidence-building measures such as not attacking each other's nuclear facilities and are hopeful that the continuing dialogue would bear fruit.

INDIA-BURMA TENSIONS

* Danger signs of an armed conflict have become visible on the India-Burma border. Myanmar (Burma) threatens to create trouble on the border with India. An Assam daily reported that the relationship between the two countries has deteriorated sharply after 2500 Myanmar nationals who inhabit the

villages along the border, fled the country and took refuge in Nagaland. They were running away from the Myanmar army which had gone on a rampage, killing and torturing the villagers, most of them Muslims.

The trouble started when an army patrol was ambushed by Myanmar student activists in the border areas. Soon afterwards, the Myanmar army took revenge by attacking villages across the border in Nagaland. The Myanmar nationals appealed to the Nagaland Government to give them protection on humanitarian grounds. The military rulers of Myanmar, however, are spitting venom at the Indian Government, accusing it of "giving succour to Myanmar insurgents and providing them with arms and training". They have also charged India with attempting to destabilise Myanmar's economy.

INDIA-UK PACT ON TERRORISM

* The Indo-Britain Extradition Treaty and the agreement to confiscate, on a reciprocal basis, the assets of terrorists and drug runners in either country, signed in London on February 28 mark a new international model for cooperation against terrorism. The two accords decided to usher in a new legal regime between the two countries for tackling the twin problem of terrorism and drug trafficking. Each side will now seek the appropriate government and parliamentary affirmation for these agreements. In reality, the treaties came into effect immediately, according to official sources.

The agreement was initialled after official level talks between the two countries. The confiscation agreement is the first of its kind in the world where two countries act together on the subject. India is the first country with which Britain has signed such an agreement. The extradition treaty, too, is the first between Britain and another Commonwealth country.

STRESS ON CHECKING TERRORISM

* India has called upon the UN Commission on Human Rights to

take the lead in bringing sustained pressure of world public opinion against terrorists and subversives with a view to preserving and promoting the human rights of millions of ordinary people. The single most pernicious threat to the enjoyment of human rights came from terrorism and narco-terrorism, the leader of the Indian delegation told the 53-nation commission at its session in Geneva.

He pointed out that the attention being given to brutal and systematic violations of the human rights of innocent people by terrorists was not commensurate with the scale of their brutality and their contempt for the right to life of human beings. Sustained pressure of world public opinion against terrorists and concrete action were necessary.

NEW POLLUTION CONTROL POLICY

* The Union Government announced on February 22 its new Pollution Control Policy which seeks to tighten the existing regulatory mechanisms and introduce market-oriented price mechanisms to influence people's behaviour to avoid excessive use of natural resources. Announcing the policy, the Minister of State for Environment, Mr Kamal Nath, said maximum use of legislation and regulation, fiscal incentives, voluntary agreements, educational programmes and information campaigns would play a key role in policy implementation.

The policy statement prescribes a comprehensive approach to integrate environmental and economic aspects in development planning. "The policy lays stress on preventive aspects for pollution control and promotion of technological inputs to reduce industrial pollutants. The emphasis will be on clean technologies and not clean up technologies", observed the Minister.

CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

* There has been a steep rise in the number of cases of crime against women, with incidence of molestation and dowry deaths having doubled over a five-year period, according to the latest report of the

Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) published in May 1992.

According to the report, the total number of cases of crimes against women registered between 1985 and 1991 rose from 2,163 to 6,182. Incidents of rape doubled from 89 to 185, while dowry deaths registered a three-fold increase from 43 to 120. Dowry-related cases under Section 406 of the IPC also marked a four-fold increase from 54 cases in 1985 to 226 in 1991. Cases in which the crime against women cells of the Delhi police succeeded in getting "stridhan" restored to the victims ranged at around 530 or 8.6 per cent of the cases registered.

Cases ending in compromises stood at 1,437 or 23.24 per cent of the total, whereas cases recommended for prosecution under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, came down to two per cent, though dowry-related cases had increased considerably.

NEW LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN

* A detailed scrutiny has confirmed the widespread impression that the laws to tackle the evils of dowry, Sati, immoral traffic, etc, are ineffective. To give teeth to these laws the Union Government intends to amend the relevant Acts. The amendments which are to be incorporated in the Dowry Prohibition Act and the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act have been finalised.

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and the Indecent Representation (Prohibition) Act are also being examined and attempts are being made to plug the loopholes. A thorough examination of all these laws showed that the punishment prescribed was not stringent enough and the laws were not being implemented effectively.

A multi-pronged programme has also been launched to combat the growing problem of exploitation of adolescent girls by training them for employment. The Government of India has decided to set up a National Commission for Women and also an office of Commissioner.

MORE N. POWER FOR INDIA

* The Nuclear Power Corporation has drawn up ambitious plans to produce 8,200 MW of power in the next 10 years, in addition to the existing generation of 1,540 MW at four atomic power stations in different parts of the country. The country is on the threshold of surging ahead in nuclear power generation.

Two units of 220 MW each of the Kakrapar atomic power project, two units each of the 220 MW Kaiga project and the third and fourth units of the Rajasthan atomic power project, which were in their final stages of construction, would be synchronised by the end of 1996. There are also schemes for another extension at Kaiga, which would have four more units of 220 MW each.

Similarly, the Tarapur atomic power plant, which had presently two units of 160 MW each, will be extended by adding two more units of 500 MW each. The Rajasthan atomic power project, having two units of 100 MW and 220 MW, will be enhanced by two units of 500 MW each, besides the two units under construction. Eight units will also be constructed at different places in the country for generating 4,000 MW of power.

Nuclear power is commercially viable. One gram of uranium generates one MW of electricity which required thousands of tonnes of coal. The country has an installed capacity to generate 1,500 MW of nuclear power and if a suitable strategy was adopted, this could be raised to 2,000 MW in the next five years and to 8,000 MW by the turn of the century.

FOREIGN POLICY REORIENTATION

* There was evidence of reorientation of foreign policy during 1991-92. The Government of India changed the traditional policy on West Asia. This was signified by its vote in favour of the US sponsored move in the UN General Assembly annulling the 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism. Clearly, India would

henceforth exercise its foreign policy options according to its national interests in the context of the sweeping changes in the international environment.

The disintegration of the Soviet Union, the biggest event of the century, threw up new challenges before India, especially in view of the special relationship between the two countries during the past four decades. Some measures were initiated to improve ties with the U.S.

Mr Narasimha Rao, who assumed office in June, 1991, sought to reach some understanding, if not cooperation, with the US in the field of defence. The commander of the US forces in the Pacific area visited New Delhi.

The most significant visit was that of the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr Li Peng. It was symbolic of the developing relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Rao sought to highlight the far-reaching economic policy changes introduced by his Government to help India adapt itself to the trends in the a global economy.

New Delhi stepped up its efforts to improve relations with neighbours with an appreciable degree of success, particularly with Nepal. The installation of a democratically elected government in the Himalayan kingdom, headed by Mr G.P. Koirala, facilitated the process. Mr Koirala's visit to India helped remove many irritants in bilateral relations.

Impact on Defence plans: The latest developments in the Soviet Union had a notable impact on India's defence plans, especially in obtaining spares for military equipment. The absence of a central authority to monitor various defence deals committed by the erstwhile U.S.S.R. has added to the defence planners' dilemma. Transfer of technology, pricing system and new equipment already under negotiations have been casualties in the new scheme of things.

India Recognises Israel: In a major reversal of its West Asia policy,

India on January 29, 1992, decided to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel, 41 years after recognising the Jewish State. The decision, which is bound to have far-reaching consequences for India's foreign policy, came on the eve of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's visit to New York for the summit meeting of the U.N. Security Council.

Among other things, the decision seemed to have been guided by the end of the Cold War between the Super Powers, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and India's growing political ties with the U.S. But some strains developed subsequently.

India had recognised Israel way back in 1951 but did not maintain any presence in the Jewish State, though the Israelis have had a consulate in Bombay. The new step marks the end of what is called a dogma and fear of reactions from the Arab world. New Delhi was anxious not to lose Arab support for its stand on Kashmir, and its fear stemmed from the possibility of alienating the Muslims. Only the BJP among the opposition parties was keen on establishing closer ties with Israel. India is likely to benefit from the move in trade, economic and technical fields.

India-Russia Political Treaty: India and Russia finalised a new political treaty and signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on trade and supplies of defence and power generation equipment. This followed talks between high-level delegations of the two countries in mid-January. The political treaty contains elements of the 1971 Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty while the memoranda on trade, defence and power equipment supplies have been structured to allow flexibility to meet changes in the economies.

A draft political treaty has been received from Ukraine as well. Besides some elements of the Indo-Soviet treaty, it has a reference to the Delhi Declaration signed by the late Rajiv Gandhi and the former Soviet President, Mr Gorbachov.

India has accepted Russia as a successor State, subject to terms it works out with other former Soviet

republics. An invitation was extended to Mr Yeltsin to visit India, which was accepted.

EXIT M. SOLANKI

* The Bofors gun deal has claimed another victim. On March 31 the Minister for External Affairs, Mr Mahavsinh Solanki, resigned following charges that he had tried to influence the Bofors scandal probe by handing over a note to the Swiss Foreign Minister, Mr Rene Felber, during a recent visit to Switzerland. The dramatic development followed Mr Solanki's confession that a memorandum given to him by an unidentified lawyer had been passed on to the Swiss Government.

It was not clear whether he merely acted as a messenger boy or he carried an important "memo" to the Swiss Foreign Minister, requesting the Swiss Government to "go slow" on the Bofors investigation. A report in a leading English daily alleged that Mr Solanki had acted on a tip from an Indian business house. The Hinduja denied any role in the matter.

ROCKET TECHNOLOGY CONTROVERSY

* The U.S.A. exerted pressure on Russia not to supply rocket technology to India, although the Russian republic is a party to a contract for such supply. However, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao asserted in Parliament that the contract with Russia for the transfer of rocket technology to this country has "not been suspended nor cancelled so far". Mr Boris Yeltsin confirmed on June 17 during his U.S. trip that Russia had not deferred or cancelled the rocket technology deal with India.

This technology did not entail any military application. India would like to continue such cooperation for mutual benefit. The alternative was to develop the technologies indigenously, but this might entail a longer time-frame and, in some cases, a higher cost. India's success in space technology, especially in development of offensive missile systems, may have prompted the U.S. to apply pressure on Russia to cancel its agreement with India.

ASSAULTS ON DIPLOMATS

* During the past few months there have been three cases of physical assaults on Indian diplomats functioning in Pakistan. On May 24, 1992, some Pakistanis brutally assaulted an Indian diplomat in Islamabad, Mr Rajesh Mittal. He was subjected to torture and even given electric shocks to force some sort of a confession out of him. His condition became serious and he had to be admitted to hospital on his return to Delhi on being declared a "persona non grata". After the incident, the Government of India expelled two Pakistani diplomats who were accused of undesirable activities. They had been acting in violation of accepted norms of diplomatic functioning.

An Indian envoy was attacked in Karachi by unidentified persons on June 7, and again on June 16. The Indian Government lodged strong protests with the Pakistan authorities against these attacks.

INDIA BANS LTTE

* After dithering for many months, despite the mounting evidence of unlawful activity by LTTE, the Government of India on May 14 imposed a ban on the militant organisation. The Government announced that it would take all possible steps to get the extradition of the LTTE supremo, V. Prabhakaran, and his associates for trial in India in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. The question of extradition of Prabhakaran has been taken up with the Sri Lankan Government.

Home Minister Chavan explained that while no political party would be victimised following the ban, no one would be spared for any support to the activities of the LTTE under cover of any political activity. As long as the LTTE fought for autonomy for Jaffna, the Indian Government had lent its support to its cause. But India never supported the LTTE's battle for an independent Jaffna or Tamil Eelam. The Government could not remain quiet when the LTTE extended its activities to India and indulged in acts prejudicial

to the sovereignty of the country. The Government knew of the links established by the LTTE with ULFA in Assam.

CASTE VIOLENCE

* Unfortunately, caste and communal violence continue to be a brutal reality in the country's rural areas, especially in U.P., Rajasthan and Bihar. The latest such rioting and assassinations occurred early in June, 1992. At least 17 Jatavs (*Chamars*) were murdered and several others badly injured by marauding mobs of Jats over a trivial incident. The situation became so tense and dangerous that the army had to be called out to restore order.

This was followed by a group of Jatavs pulling Jat passengers out of a bus and beating them. And then the whole thing snowballed with the Jats seeking revenge by burning alive and stabbing Jatav youngsters and raping women. The Jats in the area are largely small-scale peasants who feel threatened by the upward mobility of the traditionally suppressed Scheduled Castes, especially the Jatavs, who dominate the leather business. Two years ago, violent clashes took place between Jats and Jatavs.

POVERTY DOWN BY 10 PER CENT

* The percentage of people living below the poverty line in India has come down from 40 per cent to 30 per cent, according to a World Bank report, "Trends in developing countries", released in May 1992. "Accelerated growth and acceptance of anti-poverty programme have reduced the percentage of the Indian population falling below the official poverty line from over 40 per cent of the population in 1977 to less than 30 per cent at the end of 1980s", the report states. In India, reducing poverty has long been high on the Government's list of priorities. The assessment (by the Bank) finds that steady progress is being made, due mainly to rapid economic growth, direct anti-poverty interventions, and publicly provided social services.

"Further progress will depend on far-reaching and often politically sensitive structural reforms—to address, for example, distortions in the manufacturing sector and in trade and financial policies that threaten sustained and rapid economic growth; and to ensure that existing targetted programmes and safety nets are reaching the poor who tend increasingly to be concentrated in specific regions and in specific occupations."

FAILURES IN EDUCATION

* The Public Accounts Committee of Parliament has taken a serious view of the Government's failure to implement its earlier recommendations for Universal Primary Education through proper funnelling of resources to States to implement the policies, plans and programmes. The Committee, in its report released in March this year, emphasised the need to take concrete and immediate steps towards achieving the target of covering 17.63 crore children by 1995. It also urged the Government to ensure retention and attainment of minimum levels of learning to cover both formal and non-formal streams.

An earlier recommendation was that suitable non-formal educational facilities, with an interesting curriculum relevant to the needs and environment of children, should be provided and steps taken to improve physical conditions of schools.

The committee was also dismayed to note the "tone of helplessness expressed by the Government" in tackling the problem of child labour and its attitude of "preferring to wait till the socio-economic conditions in the country markedly improve". It asked the Government to ensure that measures being taken by the Government in this regard were within prescribed time limits.

Pointing out that it had earlier favoured the ministry and the Planning Commission to formulate a long-term perspective plan for education, the PAC said that the Government had in its reply simply stated that "the recommendations have been noted".

Round-up of International Affairs

MAJOR EVENTS IN BRIEF

Saving earth from Disaster—Historic Rio Summit—U.S.-Russia Accord on Cuts in Weapons—Crisis in Yugoslavia—Historic Turn in Afghanistan—Internal Troubles in Pakistan—Closer China-Islamabad Ties—Stalemate in South Africa

Even though tensions persist in some sensitive areas and there have been local conflicts in Yugoslavia and Cambodia, by and large the world has been free from bloody conflicts during the past year. After the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the emergence of Russia as the successor State with Mr. Boris Yeltsin replacing Mr. Gorbachev as the Soviet leader, the various republics of the region have more or less settled down. But most of them have since been in acute economic distress because of intense shortages of food and other essential supplies. The aid extended by the West to the stricken people of the republics has been totally inadequate. However, there are no ideological barriers now.

U.S.-Russia alliance The U.S. has established friendly relations with Russia whose leader Mr. Boris Yeltsin, paid a visit to Washington on June 16 and signed agreements with President Bush to reduce weapon stockpiles. The U.S. has also made friends with other republics in a bid to expand its sphere of influence and also to open more fruitful trade channels. Most of the republics have since been recognised as sovereign entities entitled to full membership of the United Nations.

The mutual rivalries, notably the tensions between Russia and Ukraine, have been gradually lessened and the scarce funds are now being diverted from the wasteful expenditure on military hardware to constructive channels such as economic development. This change in emphasis portends international peace instead of armed conflicts.

Ill-fated Yugoslavia: Yugoslavia has been badly affected by ethnic and other rivalries which have caused bloodshed and resulted in a break up of the country with the Serbs and the Croats persistently refusing to give any quarter to the other. According to experts, Yugoslavia has ceased to exist as an independent sovereign republic; two entities have emerged each asserting its independence.

UN imposed sanctions against the federal republic of Yugoslavia on May 30. The cease-fire had been repeatedly violated and the UN team of observers had found its task impossible.

Actually, the UN had a bad year—it proved ineffective and was marginalised in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Yugoslavia and West Asia.

Rio Summit: The Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development), the world's biggest meet designed to protect the planet from pollution and other types of disaster, was held at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) from June 3 to 14. It ended after approving a long, 600-page Declaration (Agenda 21) which contains an enunciation of principles. It is a charter for ecologically wise development into the 21st century. The US played a negative role, with President Bush refusing to sign the Biodiversity Convention which Britain, France, Germany and other countries signed. Representatives of 178 nations took part in the discussions.

The approved conventions and agreements were aimed at protecting the atmosphere from global warming and to save the disappearing species of animals, plants and even microbes. The Rio Declaration sets out 27 principles starting with a right to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. India's biggest gain from the session was that it was recognised as an activist country for environment. The single

biggest achievement of the conference was that environment and development were put on the political agenda. However, it is widely believed that the Rio Summit mostly featured rhetoric and declarations with totally unsatisfactory action or firm commitments.

New Twin in Kabul There was a historic development in Afghanistan on April 29 when Dr. Najibullah stepped down from office and there was a peaceful transition of power to the Mujahideen rebels. Prof. Mojaddidi, who had spent long years outside Afghanistan and is a widely respected figure, formed an interim government with himself as President. But there was occasional fighting in Kabul between the various guerrilla factions and the forces of the ruling group. Peace and normalcy have not yet returned to the war-ravaged Kabul and the adjacent areas all of which urgently need assistance for rehabilitation.

Pakistan, which continued to create difficulties for India in J & K and Punjab, was itself in trouble as a result of the tussle for power among the politicians, the dominant role of the army and the activities of professional trouble-makers. Economically and also otherwise, Pakistan was threatened by virtual disaster. In Sindh province in particular, the Government had to meet serious challenges and the army was summoned repeatedly to restore order.

Pakistan's N.-success Meanwhile, Pakistan continued to make news on the nuclear front, with some of its leaders, including Foreign Secretary Shahiyyar, admitting that their country had made further progress in developing nuclear technology and could assemble a nuclear device whenever it desired.

China maintained cordial relations with Islamabad. Beijing extended all-out assistance to Pakistan in various fields, especially nuclear know-how. China and Pakistan signed a nuclear pact recently. China also supported Pakistan on the Kashmir issue describing J & K as "dis-

puted territory"

Early in 1992 the Security Council summit was held in New York. High-sounding speeches were delivered but there was no material progress towards international peace and unity or in finding solutions for the various complex problems facing humanity.

The UN imposed sanctions against Libya with effect from April 15, 1992. This action was taken against that country for its refusal to hand over the two nationals who were supposedly responsible for an air crash through sabotage in December, 1988, killing 271 people.

The installation of a democratic (untainted by apartheid) regime in South Africa was further postponed because of internal conflicts and the Whites' endless arrogance which resulted in some hurdles and clashes.

Details of Events

SUMMIT REFLECTIONS

* The Earth Summit held at Rio De Janeiro from June 3 to 14 was the biggest international conference, with representatives of 178 countries participating in the discussions on environment and development. The US was isolated because of President Bush's refusal to go along with other countries, including the European Powers, on certain issues. India took a leading part and it can claim credit for protecting the interests of developing countries in respect of their forest wealth and checking encroachments by industrial nations which are the principal enemies of environment and want to use the forests for their own industries.

The right of national governments to manage and develop forests within their jurisdiction was firmly established. Globalisation of forest wealth would have been a disaster. Many people, however, regard the Indian success at Rio as merely symbolic because of the problems of actual implementation of the high-sounding principles enunciated at the summit.

India's Demand: Official spokesmen of the Government of India have held the developed countries squarely responsible for the global environ-

mental degradation. India has demanded that the industrialised States fully meet the incremental costs to be borne by developing nations to introduce environmentally safe technologies.

Earlier, India's Environment and Forests Minister, Mr Kamal Nath, told the industrial world that without adequate additional funds, the developing States would not be able to achieve the desired pace of development in the near future, specially in a global economic order which is undeniably inequitable.

Funding and development cannot be on the lines of aid and multi-lateral assistance which has so far been the international practice. "It has to be qualitatively new, in the spirit of global partnership." Referring to mechanisms for flow of funds, he said these should be transparent and democratic. "Only then there will be credibility about the donors and credibility among recipients. We cannot have an arms race succeeding an arms race."

Even after intensive discussions, the negotiators were nowhere near a consensus on the issues of financing the environmentally safe technologies in developing countries, mechanism of flow of funds and the developed nations' contribution to the fund.

Poverty—Main Theme: The Indian representatives presented a comprehensive report at the Earth summit. The report aims at putting the country's traditions, policies, structures and future perspectives in the context of environment and development. Poverty remains the central issue and the biggest challenge. With a large number of poor people dependent on the resources of their immediate environment, poverty has been compounded by environmental degradation. "The challenge, therefore, is not only to find development paths and models which are environmentally sustainable but also those which are socially and culturally acceptable", says the report.

Though Indians (who account for 16 per cent of the world's popula-

tion, supported on 2.4 per cent of its total land area) lead environmentally sustainable life-styles with low per capita consumption of natural resources, environmental degradation has increased. Large-scale inputs of technologies to modernise the industrial and agricultural sectors have become counter-productive. A sustainable and viable planet requires that development be global. The removal of poverty is an integral part of the goal of an environmental strategy for the world. Several efforts are on in this context in India. These are environmental initiatives, not merely of government at various levels but of people and organisations outside the government.

Biodiversity Treaty: In the third week of May this year a treaty was signed in Nairobi on preserving the world's biological species. It is being characterised by some conservationists as a bona fide breakthrough in dealing with the central problem—how to accommodate economic development without damaging the life support system.

As the global economy expands and population of developing countries soars, humans are destroying natural eco-systems and habitats at a rate that some biologists fear will result in the extinction of perhaps a quarter of the world's plants, animal and microbial species in 50 years. The U.S., Japan, and a few other countries object to some aspects of the agreement, but if 30 or more countries ratify the treaty, it will take effect and be binding on them.

The treaty aims to reconcile the twin imperatives of economic development and protection of species and eco-systems. "It is a treaty that truly breaks new ground. It will not put an end to the extinction of plant and animal species overnight, but it is the first attempt by governments to tackle the problem at its root causes in a systematic manner." The treaty commits nations to take actions aimed at "preserving species and eco-systems while pursuing economic development and attacking poverty."

REBELS SEIZE POWER IN KABUL

* Dramatic developments took place in Afghanistan on April 29 this year when Dr Najibullah stepped down from the Presidentship and made away for the Mujahideen rebels. The provisional President is Prof Sibghatullah Mojadidi, who formed on interim council to govern the strife-torn country. The transition of power from the Communists to the joint interim Mujahideen Council was peaceful.

The new leader declared the country an Islamic republic and called on the hardliner guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami forces to refrain from violence, lay down arms or face action under the Shariat law. He announced a general amnesty which, he said, would not be extended to deposed President, Dr Najibullah. The latter's fate appears uncertain. Fighting has erupted again and again in Kabul streets. Many people have been killed in the skirmishes between the rival Mujahideen groups - the Ittehad-i-Islami and the Shia minority (Hazaras). The foreign Powers, including the USA have little role to play in the civil war. They had stopped the supply of weapons to either party. However, Pakistan has been in many ways the gamer. It was the first to recognise the new Government in Kabul. Pak Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif paid a short visit to Kabul on April 29 to proclaim solidarity with the new rulers of Kabul.

India officially recognised the interim government of Afghanistan. New Delhi looks forward to a continuous, constructive and fruitful dialogue with the new authorities in Kabul. "We have always stood for a sovereign, independent, non-aligned and united Afghanistan, and remain firm in this commitment", the Indian Minister of State said.

PAK ARMY IN POWER STRUGGLE

* Another power struggle is currently in progress in Pakistan. The army, particularly its Chief, Gen Asif

Nawaz Janjua, is in the eye of a storm whose outcome will determine whether it will continue as a major player in the three-cornered power structure which governs the country. The other two limbs of the governing troika are the President, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the Prime Minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif. Power in Pakistan revolves around these three institutions.

Domestically, the foremost challenge confronting the army is how to clean up the mess in Sind where there have been large-scale disturbances. The army faces a challenge on the foreign policy front also.

Pak's Nuclear Admission
Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Sharyar Khan openly admitted on February 7 that his country had the capacity to assemble at least one nuclear device whenever it desired to do so. This disclosure was made to the "Washington Times". The capability is there, he said, Pakistan had elements which, put together, would become a device.

This was the first time that a Pakistani official publicly acknowledged the extent of Pakistan's nuclear progress. But, Mr Khan added, Pakistan had pledged not to explode such a device or transfer its nuclear technology to other Islamic States or Third World countries that wanted to obtain. Earlier, Pakistan had repeatedly denied US insistence that it possessed the ability to make nuclear weapons. The US has not resumed its aid to Islamabad. The Pak Foreign Secretary contends that the US must put pressure on India to force a change in policy postures on the proposal for de-nuclearisation of the South Asian region.

PAK FACING DISASTER?

* Recent reports from foreign countries show that more Pakistanis than ever before question the direction their country is taking and its place in a changing world. Uncertainty about the future feeds the suspicion that democracy does not work in Pakistan and the military may have to step in once again.

Corruption permeates the conservative Islamic Government

Human rights activists claim that victimisation of the political opposition is more prevalent than in the darkest days of martial law. The country is awash with guns and sophisticated weapons. Tribal wars also continue. Bandits roam the countryside, looting and kidnapping innocent people. Drug trafficking has become so common that many foreign narcotic agents describe Pakistan as the "new Colombia" which had become notorious for such lawless and dangerous activity.

Besides, never in 40 years has the relationship with the US been so bad. Some commentators are of the view that the Americans are being pushed closer to India, Pakistan's "traditional enemy". Pakistan has been courting the newly independent republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States, formerly a part of the USSR.

Sino-Pak Ties Sino-Pak relations are described by international observers as "all-weather friendship". Mr Li Peng's visit to India was preceded by a State visit to Pakistan by China's President, Mr Yang Shangkun, and a 45-member delegation. They discussed the many facets of cooperation evolved over three decades—economic, military, technological and political. China apparently wanted to reassure Pakistan that cooperation, including co-production of military items, would proceed as normal and Pakistan's interests remain respected by China even while it moves towards normalisation with India.

China continues to describe the status of Kashmir as "disputed", urging bilateral negotiations between Pakistan and India to resolve the issue. Equally important at the present time of turbulence in Kashmir, China does not favour forceful alterations in the territorial status quo, such as attempted by Pakistan in 1965.

NO U.N. INTERVENTION IN J & K

* Much against the wishes of Pakistan, Secretary-General Boutros Ghali recently rejected the suggestion that the UN intervene unilaterally in the

Kashmir issue on the basis of the existing Security Council resolutions. The world body needs approval of both India and Pakistan for playing any role in the issue, Dr Ghali told a press conference. He asserted that the U.N. cannot play any role even if one party to the dispute does not accept it. Pakistan has in recent months stepped up the campaign for internationalising the issue and has been pressing from various world platforms that the UN should force India to implement the resolutions.

Pak Foils JKLF Bid: The proposed march by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front militants across the Line of Control (LC) into Kashmir on March 30 fizzled out as the Pakistani security forces barricaded the entry points and arrested 500 marchers in Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. On the Indian side, curfew was imposed in three major towns of the Kashmir Valley and security was strengthened in the four-km area around the Hazratbal shrine on the outskirts of Srinagar to forestall any attempt by the JKLF to organise a march across the Line of Control.

Pakistan will block any subsequent move by the JKLF to cross the Line of Control (LC) into India, the Pakistan Interior Minister said even as the POK Government threatened to ban the outfit if it indulged in "terrorist activities". Islamabad would take necessary measures to avoid any confrontation between civilians and law-enforcing agencies over the issue. On February 12, at least 17 people were killed and about 200 injured when the JKLF marchers clashed with the police and para-military forces in Chinari, near the Indo-Pak border.

CHINA'S APPROVAL OF NPT

* The Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC) approved, on December 29, the decision for the country's signing the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). The Chinese Premier, Mr Li Peng, had announced (during the Japanese Prime Minister's visit) China's decision "in principle" to

sign the NPT. Later he promised the US Secretary of State James Baker that his Government would complete the process of joining by March, 1992, and it did. Most observers saw the development as a bargaining tactic in dealing with the Western countries which were pressing for China's accession to the NPT club. China, however, went through the motion of referring the decision to the People's Congress which does not block the Government's decisions.

Pak-China pacts for N-plant: Pakistan and China on February 23 signed two subsidiary contracts relating to a 300-MW nuclear power plant. The plant, which Pakistan purchased from China, is being set up at Chashma, near Mianwali. The main contract for the plant was concluded in Beijing on December 31, 1991. The contracts were signed by the President of the China National Nuclear Corporation and the Chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission. The high-power Chinese delegation also met the Pakistan President, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and apprised him about the "cooperation between China and Pakistan in the peaceful uses of atomic energy".

US LIFTS CURBS AGAINST CHINA

* The US announced late in February that it was lifting trade sanctions against China after receiving a pledge from Beijing that it will abide by an international accord restricting missile exports. The State Department announced that it was lifting the sanctions that were imposed in June, 1991, after the US learnt that China was exporting missile technology. The US had retaliated by suspending the sales of high-speed computers, satellite parts and sensitive equipment to Chinese weapons firms.

The missile technology exported by two Chinese companies was covered by guidelines of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) which seeks to limit ballistic missile proliferation. "China's written commitment to abide by the MTCR guidelines and parameters is an im-

portant step forward in securing Chinese support for ballistic missile non-proliferation" a communiqué stated.

SECURITY COUNCIL SUMMIT

* Though shorn of much of its expected glamour, the first UN Security Council summit held on January 31-February 1 this year made some high sounding pronouncements. World leaders attending the summit, including the Indian Prime Minister, the Presidents of the US, Russia and France, the Prime Minister of China and their counterparts from other countries, reaffirmed in a declaration their commitment to collective security to deal with threats to peace and to reverse acts of aggression.

They also pledged to strengthen the UN role in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. They underlined the need for all States to fulfil their obligations to arms control and disarmament and to resolve peacefully all problems threatening or disrupting the maintenance of regional and global stability.

The aim of the summit was to set the post-Cold War agenda for the UN. The leaders asked the UN Secretary-General to submit his analysis and recommendations on ways of strengthening the capacity of the world body for preceptive diplomacy for peace-keeping. Many leaders, however, had reservations about some aspects of the declaration. The declaration did not touch on reforming the world body structure and improving its financial position.

GORBACHOV QUILTS

* Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, on December 25, 1991, resigned as President of the USSR, ending the existence of the once mighty super power. He pledged to work for the success of the Commonwealth of Independent States formed by 11 republics on the ruins of the world's first Socialist State.

Mr Gorbachov resigned after seven momentous years that changed the face of world politics. Recalling the reforms he had initiated

on taking over, he said faith had decreed that the country was in trouble at that point. He was convinced of the "historic rectitude" of the reforms he had begun in 1985.

Mr Gorbachov passed on the "nuclear button" to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, making him one of the world's most powerful leaders. Mr Gorbachov was satisfied with the Alma-Ata agreement on strategic nuclear weapons—a reference to agreement by Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus on joint control of Soviet nuclear weapons, with the "nuclear button" in the Russian President's hands.

Reactions to Exit The resignation of President Gorbachov received adverse comment and also praise from the world community.

China made its strongest public attack on departing Gorbachov, blaming him outright for the collapse of his country. It attacked Gorbachov's new thinking—Glasnost and political pluralism—"which brought political chaos, ethnic strife and economic crisis".

Japanese Prime Minister Kichi Miyazawa said the former Soviet leader's achievements, symbolised in his winning the Nobel Peace Prize, will remain a part of the history of this century. British Prime Minister John Major praised Mr Gorbachov saying his "place in history is secure".

Russia assumed the Soviet Union's membership in the United Nations.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION FORMED

* At long last, the Russian Parliament confirmed the plan to constitute a federation through a treaty. The treaty gives wide autonomy to constituent republics to prevent a Soviet-style break-up. The treaty, defining the powers of the federal government and the constituent republics, has been signed by 18 of the 20 autonomous republics within Russia. President Boris Yeltsin said the treaty was a guarantee against Russia going the Soviet Union way. It would probably keep Russia united and

strong and prevent disintegration.

Mr Yeltsin earlier rejected his opponents' call to step down as Prime Minister and appealed to the full Russian Parliament to allow him to continue in the post. In a highly conciliatory speech, Mr Yeltsin told the Congress of People's Deputies that he was not seeking further powers but needed to combine the posts to ensure that the reforms were irreversible and there was no return to the old system.

18 Russian republics sign treaty: A notable development took place on March 31 when President Boris Yeltsin and leaders of 18 of the 20 autonomous republics in Russia signed a "historic" treaty seeking to prevent a Soviet Union-type disintegration of Russia by demarcating the powers of the centre and the republics. Two small republics refused to sign the new treaty, saying they want separate bilateral agreements with Russia to determine their status and the powers they would delegate to central Russian authorities.

Representatives of the republics sharply criticised and proposed corrections to the treaty. Some of the republics wanted corrections in the fields of property, budget and trade policy. Opposition national movements were particularly vociferous in opposing the treaty, assessing it as a "trap" for their sovereignty.

SANCTIONS AGAINST LIBYA

* The U.N.-mandated sanctions against Libya went into effect on April 15 this year, cutting off Tripoli's air links with the rest of the world. A last-minute bid by non-aligned nations and the Arab League to get the sanctions postponed failed as they gave up in the face of stiff resistance by the sponsors, the USA, Britain and France. The sanctions also put an arms embargo and asked States to cut down on Libyan diplomatic staff. But the 15-member Security Council did not impose an oil embargo. Oil forms the major part of Libya's trade. Tripoli's main West European importers—Germany, Italy and Spain—said they could not immediately

change their suppliers. Some European countries depend heavily on Libyan oil.

The sanctions were imposed for Libya's refusal to hand over to the USA or Britain, for trial, two of its nationals suspected of involvement in the blowing up of a Pan Am plane in December, 1988, killing 271 persons.

S. KOREA SIGNS HISTORIC PACT

* South Korean Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik signed in January a historic non-nuclear agreement opening the way for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. Mr Chung signed the milestone accord, initialled by officials of the two Koreas. The agreement went into effect during the sixth round of the Prime Ministers' talks in the North's capital of Pyongyang in February.

The agreement calls for denuclearisation of the heavily armed Korean Peninsula, separated into the Communist North and the capitalist South since 1945. It bans both Koreas from testing, possessing, producing and deploying nuclear weapons in their territories. The agreement, reached after weeks of intense negotiations, required North Korea to formally renounce its suspected nuclear weapons programme. Experts believe the North would be able to make a crude atomic bomb as early as 1993.

After initialling the agreement, North Korea announced that it would sign a safeguards agreement with the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency and open its nuclear facilities to outside inspections. The hard line communist State also agreed to reciprocal, simultaneous inspections of suspected nuclear weapons sites in both Koreas, separate from IAEA inspections.

South Korea supports India's stand on nuclear non-proliferation for all countries, including those who were nuclear powers before the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) was introduced. The South Korean ambassador, Mr Joungh Binn Lee, indicated on February 26

SAARC SUMMIT

* At their one-day summit in Colombo on December 21, 1991, the seven SAARC nations agreed to liberalise trade in the region, with Prime Minister Narasimha Rao proposing a "collective economic security system" of their own as developed nations were forming regional groupings which might be discriminatory. Regional cooperation, he stressed, was vital for furthering development and strengthening of the economies of developing countries. The summit concluded with a call for greater cooperation and inter-action among member-States to combat terrorism in the region.

The Colombo declaration, adopted after the businesslike meeting of the heads of governments of India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives, welcomed the general trend towards disarmament. It hoped developments on this front would restrain the pursuit of military powers in all regions of the world. The declaration underlines the efforts of States to guarantee human rights in their full context.

Recognising that cooperation among SAARC countries was vital if terrorism was to be eliminated from the region, the leaders urged member-States to take all necessary measures to give full effect to the obligations under the SAARC regional convention on suppression of terrorism.

UN CHIEF'S PEACE PLAN

* The UN Secretary-General, Mr Boutros Ghali, recently recommended mounting of the world body's second biggest peace-keeping operation to prepare Cambodia for free and fair elections and a democratic government. The operation, which is expected to cost at least \$ 2 billion, is scheduled to be completed by the spring of 1993 with the installation of a democratically elected government. But several diplomats said it might well run into 1994 because of the difficult conditions in the war-ravaged country.

The military component will comprise 15,900 troops at the height of the operation. It will be responsible for verification of withdrawal and non-return of all foreign forces, supervision of the cease-fire and related matters. The operation has five other components—human rights, civil administration, repatriation of refugees and rehabilitation. The electoral component will be responsible for organisation and conduct of free and fair elections. The 120-member constituent assembly will turn itself into the legislative assembly.

PEACE-KEEPING ROLE FOR NATO

* The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was formed as a military alliance and a counter to WARSAW. But on May 28 this year the USA endorsed the use of NATO forces as peace-keepers under the auspices of a 52-nation conference on Europe and offered \$ 9 million to help victims of fighting in Yugoslavia.

Most of the aid announced by the White House is for refugees in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the republic where Serbian forces are at war with Muslim civilians, causing more than 480,000 to flee.

Administration officials said delivering the assistance in the midst of what Secretary of State James Baker has called "humanitarian nightmare" would require either an armed escort or a cease-fire. The fighting has not ceased as U.S. officials did not approve using troops to cut through Serbian lines and deliver the aid. Deaths by starvation are reported in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The country is running out of food. The approval of all 16 NATO governments would be needed for such an operation. NATO would provide the peace-keepers and they would be sent to disintegrating Yugoslavia under the auspices of the 52-nation conference on Security and Cooperation, which includes the United States and Canada.

The fighting in Yugoslavia has created the largest movement of persons in Europe since the end of World War II. U.S. Policy is focussed on getting other nations to approve tough

economic sanctions against Serbia, which is blamed by the administration for most of the bloodshed.

AID NOT LINKED TO POVERTY

* India, with 34 per cent of the world's absolute poor, receives only 3.5 per cent of total Official Development Assistance (ODA) from the aid agencies, which is unrelated to the level of poverty, according to the Human Development Report, 1992. The report, published for the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) and released in London on April 24, said the gap between rich and poor nations has grown at an alarming rate over the last 30 years.

Several decades of development assistance have not narrowed the gap, partially because aid has not been adequately directed to the poorest of the poor nor to basic human development concerns. South Asia receives \$ 5 per person while aid-receiving countries in West Asia, with more than three times South Asia's per capita income, receive \$ 55 per person. The 10 countries that together have more than 70 per cent of the world's poorest people receive only a quarter of global aid. The countries that get the most aid are often those using their resources unwisely. High military spenders get roughly twice as much aid per capita as moderate spenders, and over 25 per cent more than low military spenders.

STRESS ON N-TEST BAN

* Mr Richard Bartholomew, the U.S. Under-Secretary of State for International Security Affairs, suggested in March that Delhi should take concrete steps towards nuclear restraint in South Asia. It became clear that unless the Government of India responds to the relentless pressure by making a comprehensive and realistic counter-proposal, it would get further isolated on the nuclear issue.

Such a counter-proposal should require some effort on the part of all five nuclear-weapon States for arms limitation and visible reduction, as well as joint initiatives by India and

Pakistan, or some variant of a five-nation conference.

The US still regards the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a valid ultimate objective and the most appropriate arrangement for the region. A five-nation conference, a nuclear safe zone arrangement or some agreement on nuclear restraint in the region would serve that end.

This is manifestly at odds with the well-articulated recent U.S. position on the issue, conveyed to Indian officials repeatedly, that America acknowledges New Delhi's grave reservations on the NPT but wants India to make an alternative nuclear restraint proposal.

Mr Bartholomew's remarks should end one other ludicrous idea that has gained some currency of late *viz*, that India could sign the NPT but as a nuclear weapons State and that, it could persuade the Americans to amend the treaty so that it can acknowledge the Pokhran explosion of 1974 as signifying the acquisition of a nuclear weapon status. One possible agreement favoured by large number of disarmament specialists and activists could be a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). This would impose a total ban on all tests of nuclear weapons under all conditions.

A CTBT is likely to carry a great deal of moral and political weight in the West where the peace sentiment is by no means unimportant. Now that the Cold War has ended and the Soviet threat does not exist, the whole idea of vertical proliferation or making nuclear weapons more sophisticated and of keeping the arms race going, has been deprived of its rationale. Besides, a CTBT regional nuclear restraint link will permit India to seize the initiative, instead of merely responding in an uncertain, diffident and contradictory way to other proposals.

SHARIF LINKS N-PLAN WITH KASHMIR

* Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has sought to justify

Islamabad's nuclear programme linking it with the Kashmir issue. He has stated in an interview with the "Financial Times" of London that the nuclear problem would be solved only when the Kashmir problem was solved. "Even if we resolve the nuclear issue, tensions will remain and will not be resolved", he said.

Justifying the linkage, the Pakistan Prime Minister pointed out that the need to have a large defence capability arose precisely because of the Kashmir problem. The situation, he asserted, involves heavy defence expenditure but it carries the highest priority. It needs to be noted that expenditure on arms accounts for nearly one-third of Pakistan's annual budget.

Mr Sharif disclosed that he had made Pakistan's stand on Kashmir clear to the Indian Prime Minister Mr Narasimha Rao during their meeting at Rio de Janeiro early in June. Mr Sharif is reported to have said that the nuclear issue may be important from Washington's standpoint but Kashmir is the most important issue for Pakistan. Mr Sharif has made the position clear to President Bush.

Pakistan's nuclear programme also came up for discussion between Mr Nawaz Sharif and Mr John Major, the British Prime Minister. Mr Major indicated that Britain would like both India and Pakistan to sign the NPT. Mr Sharif told Mr Major that Pakistan was willing to join five-nation talks on a nuclear-free South Asia. Islamabad is even willing, Mr Sharif added, to have bilateral talks with India to discuss non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region.

U.S.-RUSSIA PACT ON N-ARMS CUT

* During their two-day summit in Washington on June 18-19 US President George Bush and the Russian leader Boris Yeltsin outlined a wide cooperation accord, committing themselves to the ideals of world peace, democracy, primacy of the rule of law, fundamental freedoms and human rights. The Charter that was

agreed upon shared a vision of Europe-Atlantic community, from Vancouver to Vladivostok, open to cooperation with all democratic societies.

The two countries signed no fewer than 39 agreements, including the landmark accord to reduce the number of nuclear warheads of both nations from 21,000 to 7,000 by the year 2003, and to explore seriously the prospects of joint sponsorship of global missile defence and space cooperation.

The US implicitly recognised Russia as both a European and an Asian power. The Charter which the two leaders signed says: "The US and Russia believe that strengthening confidence and stability in Asia and the Pacific regions, in cooperation with other States, will promote global security."

While according the most favoured nation tariff treatment for both countries, the US pledged 4.5 billion dollars of the 24-billion dollar multilateral financial assistance programme to support Russia's economic reforms.

The Charter envisages a joint initiative for creation of a Conference on international security and cooperation.

YELTSIN'S SUMMIT SUCCESS

* The U.S.-Russia summit was regarded as a great success from Boris Yeltsin's point of view, though his expectations of massive economic aid for reconstruction of Russia's sorely troubled economy were only partially fulfilled. The Russian President said on return to Moscow after his trip that his arms control agreement with the USA was fair and in Russia's best interests. His six-day tour of North America netted him a historic arms deal, pledges by way of credit, improved trade status with the US and easier terms for International Monetary Fund (IMF) assistance.

He claimed that his trip was "very successful" and he had achieved everything he had hoped for. His assessment of the arms con-

tro! agreement he had signed with Mr George Bush was that it would eventually scrap two-thirds of their deadliest weapons. The accord was fair to both sides. He described the accusation that he had "betrayed his country" as not only unjust but also an insult.

YELTSIN'S THREAT TO MOLDOVA

* On June 22 Mr Boris Yeltsin warned the strife-torn republic of Moldova that Russia might intervene to end the escalating civil war in that country if peace and normalcy did not return at an early date. The civil war in Moldova had resulted in much bloodshed. The Slavic separatists and Moldovan troops have been battling for control of the Bendery city, 1200 km south-west of the Russian capital. Bodies of the killed civilians and soldiers were lying in the streets.

It is stated that if Russian troops are sent to halt the war, it would be the first official government-sanctioned use of force by Russia on the territory of another member of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Mr Yeltsin informed the Moldovan President that while he would prefer a negotiated settlement of the issues at stake, when a war was going on and there was disorder "we cannot remain indifferent". Russia must respond "to protect the people and stop the bloodshed", "We have the strength to do so", he asserted. The Moldovan President gave a counter-warning: if Russia starts intervening in other countries, it will be torn by conflict. On June 24 President Bush asked Russia to pull out of Moldova to avoid complications.

A Russia-Moldova truce was reached on June 24.

SIHANOUK PLEADS FOR MASSIVE HELP

* Cambodian head of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk earnestly appealed to the world community on June 22 to extend massive aid to war-ravaged Cambodia despite the political difficulties and the darkening prospects of an early and durable

peace there. Prince Sihanouk was addressing the International Conference on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Cambodia. He was making a reference to the problems created by the Communist Khmer Rouge Guerrillas who have refused to disarm in accordance with the agreements reached in Paris some time ago.

The Prince admitted that the prospects of peace in his country had somewhat deteriorated in recent weeks. But he asserted that the large majority of the Cambodian factions and respective armies, and he himself, would support and follow the current UN-sponsored peace efforts.

In the Conference room in Tokyo the Khmer Rouge representatives were also present. Their leader, Mr Khieu Samphan, reluctantly took his place alongside the country's other factional leaders. Earlier, he had threatened a boycott. The ministerial conference opened amidst severe criticism of the Khmer Rouge communist faction for violating the peace accord signed in October.

APARTHEID: NO EARLY END

* The prospects of an early end to apartheid and speedy establishment of democracy in South Africa have receded as a result of violence which has caused the death of many blacks. Dr Nelson Mandela, the ANC leader, had suspended the talks with the Whites led by President F.W. De Klerk. He accused the White Government of "murdering our people". The talks involve as many as 19 parties.

There was a virtual massacre of blacks in the Boipatang township. On June 20 the White Government called for an urgent meeting with the African National Congress saying the breakdown of their negotiations could lead to an escalation of political violence. However, Dr Mandela said the African Congress remained part of black-white negotiations on ending apartheid.

South Africa's Foreign Minister,

Mr Pik Botha, claimed the ANC's protest campaign, launched on June 16, had contributed to the violence in townships around Johannesburg. The ANC's planned action, it is officially, stated had increased the tensions. Dr Mandela cited the recent bloodbath as the reason for breaking off talks with the Government representatives. Mr De Klerk has expressed willingness to accept international involvement to resolve the crisis.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA SPLITS

* After the break-up of Yugoslavia it is evidently the turn of Czechoslovakia to split into two parts. This has been decided upon by the leaders of Slovakia and the Czech unit. "The Czechoslovak federation is lost", the Prime Minister-designate Vaclav Klaus said after the vital talks held in the third week of June, 1992.

In a recent election the leader of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia swept the eastern region, while Mr Klaus' western right-wing Civic Democratic Party won in the western Czech republic. The Slovak leaders headed by Mr Vladimir Neciar, a burly populist, insisted that the region must declare sovereignty and take other steps which, according to the political leaders, would effectively break up the Czechoslovak Federation. Both sides reported deep differences on the country's future constitutional set-up and held out the possibility of a referendum later this year. The Slovak leaders intend to take early steps to declare Slovakia sovereign.

Thus there would be two sovereign States instead of one. However, there is little evidence of deep-rooted animosities between the two regions, though the underlying friction between them has been an open secret. Half the population of the federation consists of Slovaks. However, even after the split there would be sizable minorities in both States—ethnic Germans and ethnic Hungarians.

ECONOMY CAPSULE

National Scenario

NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

* If Jawaharlal Nehru sought to transform and modernise India's under-developed and primitive economy into a developed and industrialised one, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao is striving hard to take a big leap forward and reach the same ends, though from a different route. Nehru adopted the model of planned development by command, while Mr Rao has taken to planning by consent. The strategy of both has the under-pinning of development through planning. Nehruvian centralised planning involved increased State participation in the formulation, decision-making and implementation. The public sector was to attain 'commanding heights' while, at the same time, it co-existed with the private sector. Both had to work in unison and as complementary to development.

With the passage of time, certain distortions and deficiencies have developed in the structure and functioning of the economic process. Fiscal and trade imbalances, economic and social inequalities, inefficiency in production, corruption mal-practices in business, black marketing, oligopolistic tendencies have become rampant. Political uncertainty and economic instability, especially during the nineties, have brought the country to the brink of insolvency. A complete overhaul and re-structure of the economy has become inevitable to usher in a new economic order.

The fossilised economic structure has, therefore, been demolished or is being re-structured. In the process, the restoration of macro-economic stability by reducing the chronic fiscal and balance of payments deficits and the completion of the structural adjustment (which had started ear-

lier) were the immediate tasks before the present government. This entailed contraction of economic activity in the short run which caused hardships and social costs.

The process began with the devaluation of the rupee in early July, 1991. It was soon followed by wide-ranging industrial and trade reforms, fiscal and financial reforms. The under-current of thought in the entire gamut of reforms is to set free the economy from the shackles of restrictive rules and regulations, procedures, licences etc that hamstrung production. The State intervention is thus minimised. An aggressive and dynamic industrialist has now many more avenues and opportunities to promote/expand the existing or new industry (barring an industry which is included in the "negative" list). He has not to go through the hassle of obtaining a licence or prior approval of the government. An exporter/importer has, similarly, the liberty to pursue his trade unhindered. Of course, some import compression measures (now relaxed) were taken to conserve the foreign exchange reserves which were in short supply. The rupee devaluation is expected to give a boost to exports but that has not yet come about for other reasons.

The 'open door' policy of foreign investment has beefed up reserves. Market-friendly policies have helped restore India's credibility in the Western world which, in turn, has helped confidence-building of the nation. The economy is back on the rails ready to move forward and fast.

Improvement in foreign exchange accretions has encouraged the government to declare partial convertibility of rupee and full convertibility is considered only a matter of time. This will give a shot in the arm to the export sector.

Quite recently, the government has scrapped the capital issue control and four leading firms have been al-

lowed to raise capital abroad. Soon, India will be flush with foreign exchange.

Along with this, fiscal discipline has been strictly enforced and fiscal deficit reduced by two percentage points to 6.4 per cent of gross domestic product in 1991-92 and will be further slashed down to four per cent of GDP in this financial year.

ECONOMIC CRISIS OFF?

* Unprecedented political uncertainty and instability leading to precipitous, albeit short-lived, economic crisis has gripped the nation since the Congress debacle in the November 1989 general elections. Two governments representing different non-Congress political parties have since come and gone. It was left, once again, to the veteran Congress organisation to bear the onerous responsibility of bringing the derailed economy back on to the rails and establishing a stable government in the country.

The present government took up the gauntlet a year ago on June 21, 1991, as a minority government and addressed itself to heal the traumas. It has registered a remarkable achievement in that India's lost credibility in the world, particularly with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the foreign commercial banks and other international financing agencies has been restored.

The forex reserves that had plummeted to the abysmal depths at Rs 1400 crore in January 1991 have now scaled new heights: Rs 11400 crore in February last. India is awash with foreign exchange now, as is evident from the various measures taken to augment forex and relax the restrictions on its spending.

The macro-economic re-structure launched by the present government soon after assumption of office is marked by a package of measures extending the philosophy of liberalisa-

tion to various areas—industrial, financial, trade etc. As a result, India is going global in outlook. It cannot afford to live in isolation. At present, the economy is in a state of convalescence in upbeat mood to register quick recovery.

The fiscal deficit is drawn down to 6.4 per cent of GDP in 1991-92 and will be further reduced in the current and subsequent years.

The gold which had been pledged by the Reserve Bank of India has been redeemed; the withdrawal of the non-Resident Indian deposits from India has been halted and the reverse trend has started.

Fiscal profligacy has yielded place to fiscal discipline. Non-development and wasteful expenditure has been slashed down. These are all the gains on the credit side.

On the debit side, it is noted that import compression resorted to conserve forex, has pushed the economy into a recession (limited to autos, so far) and the index of industrial production shows a down-turn; foodgrain production is 10 million ton below the target set for the year; export growth which was expected to rise in response to the rupee devaluation has dwindled; prices which the Congress had promised in the election manifesto roll back to the level of 1990, have, actually, crossed to double-digit level and there are no signs of a climb-down. As a result, even basic necessities have become costlier which hurts the poor, in particular. The economic policies are alleged to be anti-Nehru and make a deviation from his model. Be that as it may, it is undeniable that under the new economic order the government has distanced itself from the role it was assigned earlier in the trade and industrial sectors.

On balance, it may be said that the initial economic crisis is over but sustained efforts are necessary to make further headway and accelerated growth. India is still under a cloud, however.

PRIVATISATION

* The government's announcement to disinvest 20 per cent of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) emanated from the need to make them self-reliant and generate surpluses as

well. Another argument is to make them more efficient in terms of higher return on capital investment.

This triggered off a nation-wide controversy. The crucial question is whether privatisation, as 'disinvestment' is termed erroneously, will by itself improve the efficiency of the PSUs; whether it will not mean deviation from the Nehruvian model of planned development which emphasised the creation of a socialist society with the Public Sector at 'commanding heights'. What is the exit policy for the workers affected by the change contemplated? Which are the units identified for disinvestment—the loss-making or the profit-making units? These posers do not admit of simple answers.

It may be pointed out that there is no ideological contradiction in privatisation and Nehruvian philosophy. The public sector and the private sector were conceived as Siamese twins and were to work in complementarity to the overall good of the country. They are not rivals. The public sector has behaved as 'big brother' in the past and provider of essential inputs to the private sector. The latter has now come off age. It can stand on its own legs.

There is no room for the sick public sector units as there is none for the private sector ones. The disinvestment of the former would not be easy. There may be no takers. However, the Union government has already raised Rs 2,500 crore from disinvestment and may mobilise more funds. Expectations are that the disinvested units combined with professional and managerial expertise of the private sector will be able to deliver the goods. The sick units may be restored to health. It is believed that the losses of as many as 106 loss-making public sector units can be wiped out with an increase in capacity utilization of only five per cent.

Opponents of privatisation argue that the experience with it of many other developing countries has not been encouraging. Can India's be any different? Mere privatisation would not be adequate. A host of other reforms like de-regulation, review of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, labour laws would be necessary.

The Krishnamurthy panel on public sector disinvestment (closure of 58 units identified as chronically sick units ruled out) favours the sale of equity shares through "open auction". It is against putting up for sale the share of all profit-making units in one go. Scripts of not more than four companies should be put on sale.

(IM)BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

* Theoretically, the balance of payments always balances. That has not happened in the case of India for decades. The aggregate imports (visible plus invisible) have, over the years, exceeded aggregate exports (visible plus invisible) to pay off which the country has run into debt. The persistent precarious situation had resulted in critical vulnerability in the first half of the last year. India was on the brink of bankruptcy and would have been declared as such in the world markets if the situation had not been managed tactfully and expeditiously. The record trade deficit stood at Rs 10,470 crore for the eleven month period—April, 1990, to February, 1991. In contrast, the deficit was only Rs 7,538 crore in the corresponding period in 1989-90.

The problem has grown serious due to the fall in the foreign exchange earnings from invisibles and capital accounts; increased imports of crude in the wake of decline in the domestic output of oil; shortfall in foreign assistance from the World Bank and the IMF and reduced accessibility to commercial bank loans.

The solution lay in import curbs (without jeopardising production for domestic consumption and exports) and export expansion. India has been chanting this parrot-like with net result anything but satisfactory. The opening year of the eighth five-year plan, 1992-97, and the immediately preceding half year are marked by dramatic, bold and innovative reforms in trade policies.

Two important policy points deserve a notice here: One, liberalisation of trade or free for all approach; two, a long-term Exim policy for five years, 1992-97, to impart stability, continuity, certainty to help im-

porters and exporters to chart out their plans. Unshackled from anachronistic rules and regulations, the country has been integrated with the rest of the world in a big way. Will globalisation of the economy transform the trade? Critics are sceptical about the desired outcome.

CREDIT POLICY

* The RBI credit policy is like a fair-weather friend and is designed to suit the situation. India's economic malady during the year under review and the previous one has not been very dissimilar.

The distinctive feature of the credit policy for the slack season of 1992 is purported to extend the avowed liberalisation policies to the banking sector as well. It is a switch-over from credit squeeze to liberalised credit in one case and reduction in the statutory liquidity ratio (8.5 per cent down from 38.5 per cent) and the withdrawal of incremental credit ratio (10 per cent) and of incremental non-food credit-deposit ratio in the other. These are noteworthy steps. The banks will have additional finance to the tune of Rs 4,000 crore in 1992 to make advances to the industrial and agricultural sectors to help them tide over the recessionary environment.

For short-term investments, the current policy has introduced a new credit instrument namely 364 days Treasury Bill in addition to the already existing ones of 90 and 182 days.

Under the new dispensation, the banks can close down a bank in a non-rural area but not in a rural area.

FOOD FRONT VULNERABLE

* The impending foodgrains shortage and the double-digit inflation are looming large as problems of grave concern to the government as well as the people. If not resolved satisfactorily and immediately, they are likely to aggravate the economic crisis facing the country.

Apart from the shortfall in the foodgrains production by a margin of 3 to 5 million ton in 1991-92 over the previous year what is worrisome is the low level of wheat procurement

(6.1 million ton as against 7.3 million ton last year), despite the bumper harvests for the fourth successive year and the all-time record procurement price of wheat (Rs 250 plus Rs 25 bonus plus Rs 5 incentive, that is Rs 280 a quintal) in 1992. The Central government has decided to extend the bonus of Rs 25 per quintal till the end of June, 1992 in the hope that one million ton of shortfall in wheat procurement will be made good.

This enigmatic situation is the creation of some anti-social elements who have contacted the farmers pledging that a higher wheat price will be paid if they hold back the stocks. The consequent restricted arrival of wheat in the market together with the farmers' unwillingness to sell it to the official procurement agencies (Foodgrain Corporation of India) has led to reduced buffer stocks and sent the prices of foodgrains and other commodities sky-rocketing. The prospects of the prices ever rolling back, as pledged by the Congress party in power are receding every day.

To bridge the deficiency and also to depress the foodgrain prices, it is proposed to import one million ton from abroad. This will involve a huge outgo of foreign exchange. The imported wheat is reported to be costlier (Rs 500 per quintal) and the government will have to substantially subsidise its supply more than provided for in the budget. Alternatively, the government may go without imports. In that case the public distribution system, which is sought to be extended to 1700 additional blocks in backward areas, will suffer grievously.

International Horizons

WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

* The gloomy global economy in 1991 to be followed by upbeat 1992, as predicted by the Asian Development Bank and the IMF should cheer us up. The world output would rebound to 2.7 per cent from 1.2 per cent. The developing countries would on the contrary, register 3 to 4 per cent growth when the developed ones suffer a slow-down. The downward trend is due to a combina-

tion of factors including the Gulf crisis, the demand for capital by the Soviet Union and the Eastern Europe and the fragile banking system. The credit crunch facing the newly emerging countries may deepen the recession.

In its recent study, the IMF has revealed that the industrial countries had a lower growth rate of 0.8 per cent in 1991 as against 1.3 per cent projected by the Fund before. On that basis, the IMF has slashed down the growth rate projections from 2.8 per cent for 1992 to 1.8 per cent for the same year. These economies are, however, likely to experience a rebound in the next financial year, 1993.

In contrast, the developing countries (excluding the Eastern Europe and the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republic) will grow from 3.3 per cent in terms of real GDP in 1991 to 6.7 per cent in real GDP in 1992 and then decline to 5.4 per cent in 1993. The growth in the Third World hinges substantially on the affluent economies.

The Fund's optimism emanates from the lower inflation rate in 1992 (3.3 per cent) and still lower (3.2 per cent) in 1993 compared to the last year (4.4 per cent). The same downtrend in consumer prices is projected for the current year in US and Japan.

Japan is the only G-7 country which has a budget surplus. It is likely to come under pressure from the G-7 countries to boost its domestic demand with fiscal stimulus. Similarly, Germany may be asked to reduce the interest rate to which it may not agree.

If the Uruguay Round of GATT succeeds, the world's income, it is estimated, would increase by \$ 200 billion a year.

India: The World Bank predicted that India's economy would face an acute crisis due to whopping external debt, negative balance of payments and huge budgetary deficits. The present government took the writing on the wall seriously and initiated bold and innovative package of macro-economic reforms for adjustment and stabilisation to avert the crisis or

mitigate it substantially.

The Bank has noted that the poverty ratio in India has come down to 30 per cent in 1987 from 48 per cent in 1977 but there has been no respite in the soaring prices.

The study brings into bold relief that despite the claims to 4.2 per cent growth in 1991, the widening macro-economic imbalances between the developing and the developed societies impinge on the poor.

BORROWING BINGE

* That India is an aid-dependent country has been amply brought out during the last couple of years. In 1991-92, the 13-nation Aid India Consortium was expected to advance a loan between \$ 6.1 billion and \$ 6.5 billion, equal to almost the same amount as given in 1990-91. In September 1991 meeting of the Consortium, a loan amounting to \$ 6.7 billion was pledged for 1991-92 which represented an increase of \$ 400 million or about 6 per cent over the previous year. The Consortium also decided to provide a large component of overall commitments at \$ 2.3 billion or one-third, in the form of fast-disbursing assistance mainly from the IBRD, ADB and bilateral donors such as Japan and Germany.

In December 1991 the World Bank approved a Structural Adjustment Loan of \$ 500 million. The Asian Development Bank and Japan also extended financial help to meet emergency needs. But access to commercial bank credit during the last two years has been on a low key. The Non-resident Indian's deposits which had been a considerable support to India's balance of payments suffered serious setback in 1990-91.

It may be added that in the Aid India Consortium meet this year a tough line is expected to be adopted by the member-countries, including the World Bank, and many non-economic issues will be raised while negotiating the amount of aid for 1992-93.

The unprecedented foreign exchange crisis of the last year obliged India to go on a borrowing spree. On October 31 last, the IMF sanctioned a

stand-by loan of \$ 2.262 billion for disbursement in three instalments over a period of 20 months. This loan arrangement was reviewed as scheduled in March last for conversion into a long-term low-cost Extended Fund Facility loan. India has not been able to make up its mind as to how much loan is required. According to the World Bank, India would need such a loan of \$ 5-7 billion for a period of three to four years. Beginning with \$ 3.7 billion in 1991-92, it will taper off in subsequent years and be eliminated in 1996-97.

The EFF loan has the triple advantage: low interest rate; low repayment pressure and it will be in addition to other borrowings.

EAST ASIA EXPERIENCE

* Poverty reduction is one of the most pressing development task today. Though it is a formidable task, the quiet revolution in this connection is taking place in East Asian countries.

There is a decline in absolute poverty in this region which recorded a growth rate of 8 per cent a year as against 3.5 per cent for the world during the past decade.

The incidence of poverty in East Asia, Korea and Malaysia has been reduced to 15 per cent which is far less than 33 to 50 per cent obtaining in South Asia and Africa. In China, the reduction from over 30 per cent to 10 per cent of the population below the poverty line was the sharpest and the economic growth rate of 8.5 per cent a year the highest in the eighties. But in Thailand and Philippines, the poverty levels remained stagnant.

An instructive lesson from the East Asian experience is that all economic reforms are meaningless unless they contributed to a substantial improvement in the quality of life of the poor. China, Korea, Indonesia and Malaysia adopted broad-based agricultural policies, carried the green revolution to the farmers, provided land and other inputs such as new seed varieties and infrastructure as part of their development programmes.

The experience of East Asian and

other countries vindicates the widely-held view that growth alone fails to make a dent on poverty. It must help human resource development.

SPECIAL 301 AND INDIA

* India, alongwith Thailand and China, has been placed under "priority watch-list" under Special 301 provisions of the US Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act, 1988. It means that the US Trade Representative, now Ms Carla Hills, could take retaliatory action against India for failure to give adequate protection to the US Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) such as patents, copy rights, trade marks and service-related legislation of India.

The USITR has in April last delivered the punch. The Bush Administration has suspended duty-free treatment under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) to some Indian imports, primarily pharmaceuticals, chemicals and related products. This is described as the "first shot". More might follow within thirty days, that is by May 29. The US has already indicated that it will take retaliatory action under Super 301 if the Uruguay Round flops. Under this, India may be forced to throw open markets in services, especially insurance.

The US retaliation may not be catastrophic. It is estimated to hit exports worth only 60 million dollar. But it is not a happy signal at the present juncture when every body is gearing to increase trade with India, improve collaborations and arrangements of flows of technology and investment.

The real question is not whether the US action is mild or not but that it has been taken and constitutes a warning to fall in line with or face the consequences. Will India go under and concede the US dictates? Or allow Indo-US relations to be embittered? Needless to add that India negotiates from a position of weakness. India needs today the US market more than US needs India's. Efforts must therefore be made to make Uruguay Round a grand success.

Round-up of Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

APEC: Action Plan for Economic Cooperation

ARTRAC: Army Training Command

ASLV: Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle

ATGM: Anti Tank Guided Missile

CFC: Chlorofluoro Carbon

CIS: Commonwealth of Independent States

CI ASS: Computer Literacy and studies in School

CLIPS: Computerised Identity Card Printing System

COBE: Cosmic Background Explorer Spacecraft

CODESA: Convention for a Democratic South Africa

CSCE: Conference on Security and Co-operation of Europe

ECU: European Currency Unit

FCNR: Foreign Currency (non-resident) Accounts Scheme

FERA: Foreign Exchange Regulation Act

GEF: Global Environment Facility

GPS: Global Positioning System

GSP: Generalised System of Preferences

HDI: Human Development Index

IPR: Intellectual Property Rights

IRBM: Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile

ISC: Inter-State Council

JWG: Joint Working Group

LAC: Line of Actual Control

LERMS: Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System

MIGA: Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.

MTCR: Missile Technology Control Regime

NPT: (Nuclear) Non-Proliferation Treaty

NRF: National Renewal Fund

NSE: National Stock Exchange

NSMS: National Stock Market System

PACER: Programme for Acceleration of Commercial Energy Research

PEACE: Protection of Environment for Achieving Cleaner Earth

PPE: Planet Protection Fund

RABMN: Remote Area Business Message Network

RBI: Reserve Bank of India

SIT: Special Investigating Team

SNC: The Supreme National Council

SROSS: Stretched Rohini Satellite Series

SWIFT: Society for World-wide Interbank Financial Telecommunication

TRIPS: Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights

ULFA: United Liberation Front of Assam

UNCED: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

UNFPA: The United Nations Population Fund

UNPROFOR: UN Protection Force (for Yugoslavia)

AWARDS

NATIONAL AWARDS

Arjuna Awards, 1990

* Thirteen outstanding sports persons have been selected for the 1990 Arjuna awards. These are Deena Ram (*Steeplechaser*), Anupama Gokhale (*Chess*), Jasbir Singh (*Hockey*), Leander Paes (*Tennis*), Hardeep Singh (*Kabaddi*), Bula Chaudhry (*Swimming*), Meherwan Daruwala

(*Squash*), Manmeet Singh (*Table Tennis*), Daler Singh (*Volleyball*), K Chandra (*Weightlifting*), Kunjuran Devi (*Weightlifting*), Ombir Singh (*Wrestling*) and Pushpendra Garg (*Yachtsman*)

The award carries a cash prize of Rs 20,000, a bronze statuette and a scroll of honour

Dronacharya Awards, 1990

* Three Coaches—Ramakant Achrekar (*Cricket*), A Ramana Rao (*Volleyball*) and Syed Naemuddin (*Football*)—have been chosen for the Dronacharya awards, 1990

The award is given to Coaches for outstanding work on a constant basis in last three consecutive years. It carries a cash prize of Rs 40,000 each

B.C. Roy Award, 1989

* Dr Bansi J. Wadia, obstetrician and gynaecologist has been awarded the 1989 Dr B.C. Roy award for his contribution to family planning work among the rural and tribal population

Borlaug Award, 1987 and 1988

* The 1987 award has been given to Mr Deb Roy, conservator of forests, Assam

The 1988 award has gone to Dr P.V. Shenoi, Special Secretary (Agriculture)

Dhanvantri Award, 1991

* Internationally renowned neurologist, Dr Eddie P. Bharucha, has been awarded the prestigious Dhanvantri award for 1991 for his outstanding contribution to the medical science, specially in the field of neurology

G.D. Birla Award, 1990

* The second G.D. Birla International award for outstanding contribution to Humanism has been given to Sir Hermann Bondi, President of the British Humanist Association

The award carries a prize of Rs 5 lakh

G.D. Birla Award for Scientific

Research, 1991

* The first G.D. Birla award for Scientific Research, 1991, has been given to Prof Asis Datta, Professor of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, School of Life Science, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Indian National Science Academy Awards, 1991

Chandrasekhar Venkataraman Medul Dr Ashesh Prosad Mitra, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Medal: Professor Bimal Kumar Bachawat, FNA, Head of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Delhi.

C V. Raman Research Professorship: Professor Govindarajan Padmanaban of Department of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

P.C. Mahalanobis Medal (1990): Professor G.S. Sanyal, Executive Director, Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park (STEP), IIT, Kharagpur.

H.J. Bhabha Medal (1990): Dr P.K. Iyengar, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, Bombay.

K.R. Ramanathan Medal (1990): Professor P.R. Pisharoty, Emeritus Professor, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad.

Professor Shyam Bahadur Saksena Memorial Award. Professor H.Y. Mohan Ram, Department of Botany, University of Delhi.

Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration, 1990

* The prestigious Indira Gandhi award for national integration for 1990 has been given *posthumously* to the former Prime Minister of India, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, for his outstanding work and supreme sacrifice in the cause of national integration.

Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puruskar (Environment Award), 1991

* The Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puruskar (Environment award) for 1991 has been given to noted industrialist Mr S.P. Godrej in recognition to the contribution in the field of environment.

The award carries Rs one lakh in

cash.

In the category of organisations, the award has gone to Dasholi Gram Swarajya Mandal of Gopeshwar (Uttar Pradesh).

Iqbal Samman, 1991

* The distinguished Urdu writer, Mr Anand Narayan Mulla, has been given the Iqbal Samman for his excellence, outstanding creativity and long-time dedication in the field of Urdu literature.

The award has been instituted by the Madhya Pradesh government and carries an amount of Rs one lakh and a plaque of honour.

Jamnalal Bajaj Awards, 1991

For outstanding contribution in the field of constructive work: Dwarko Sundrani, the managing trustee of the *Samanvaya Ashram* at Bodhgaya in Bihar.

For application of science and technology for development: Krishnamurthy Mirmira, a ceramics expert.

For outstanding contribution for uplift and welfare of women and children: Radha Bhat of Laxmi Ashram at Kasauni in district Almora of Uttar Pradesh.

International award for promoting Gandhian values: Charles C. Walker of USA.

Each award consists of a citation, a medal and a cash prize of Rs one lakh (equivalent of Rs one lakh in foreign exchange for the international award).

Jnanpith Award, 1991

* The 27th annual Bharatiya Jnanpith Award, 1991 for contribution to Indian literature has been awarded to Mr Subhash Mukhopadhyaya, a Bengali writer.

A poet and author, he has been lauded for his outstanding creative writing in Bengali between 1971 and 1985. He is the fourth Bengali writer to get the award. The award carries Rs 2 lakh in cash, a citation plaque and a bronze replica of Goddess Vagdevi.

Kabir Samman, 1991

* The Kabir Samman for excellence, outstanding creativity and dedication in the field of Indian poetry, has

been given to distinguished Marathi poet Mr Govind Vinayak Karandikar.

The award has been instituted by the government of Madhya Pradesh and carries a sum of Rs 1.5 lakh and a plaque of honour.

Kalidas Samman, 1991-92

* Renowned sculptor Somnath Hore of West Bengal, Veteran theatrist and script writer, Mrs Vijaya Mehta and eminent Kuchipudi exponent Guru Benipathi Chinna Sathyam have been awarded the prestigious Kalidas Samman.

The award has been sponsored by the Madhya Pradesh Government and carries Rs one lakh in cash and a plaque.

Konarak Samman, 1991

* The first Konarak Samman has been conferred to Mrs Subbulakshmi, the doyen of Carnatic classical music.

The award, a national honour, has been constituted by the Orissa State Council of Culture.

Lata Mangeskar Award, 1992

* The Lata Mangeskar award, 1992 has been given to noted singer, Yesudas.

Instituted by the Madhya Pradesh Government the award is given annually for excellence in creativity, outstanding achievement and dedication to light music. The award carries a citation and an amount of Rs one lakh.

Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Award, 1988

For promoting Indian Cultural, ethical and moral values abroad: Ram Lal Sachdev.

For outstanding contribution to Agricultural Sciences: Dr V.R.P. Sinha, Director of Central Institute of Fisheries; Dr Ram Pratap Singh, Director of Extension, N.D. University of Agriculture and Technology.

For outstanding contribution to development: Dr S.Z. Qasim, who led the first Indian expedition to Antarctica; Dr Pran Pyari Bhat, a senior scientist of National Biotechnology Centre.

Moortidevi Award, 1990

* The eighth Moortidevi award, 1990 has been given to Muni Shri

Nagaraja for his monumental work *Agam Aur Triptak: Ek Anushilan*.

The award carries a purse of Rs 51,000. It has been sponsored by the Bharatiya Jnanpith

Nehru Literacy Award, 1987

* Noted scholar, author and Parliamentarian, Prof N.G. Ranga for his contribution towards removal of illiteracy among the adult men and women of India.

R.D. Birla National Award, 1992

* The Rameshwadas Birla National Award for outstanding research work done by an Indian scientist in medical and related fields has been given to Dr Madhav G. Deo, Chief of Cancer Research Institute at the Tata Memorial Centre.

Republic Day Awards, 1992

Bharat Ratna: Subhash Chandra Bose (posthumously), Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (posthumously), J.R.D. Tata and Satyajit Ray

Padma Vibhushan: Ten prominent persons were honoured with *Padma Vibhushan*. They are: A.B. Vajpayee, senior leader of BJP; Swaran Singh, former external affairs minister; Aruna Asaf Ali, freedom fighter; V Shantaram (posthumously), film producer and director; Govindbhai Shroff, educationist; K. Narayana Rao, poet; Pt Lakshman Shastri Joshi, philosopher; Dr M.B. Mansoor, classical musician; Ravi Narayan Reddy (posthumously); and Dr S. Padmavati, cardiologist.

Padma Bhushan: Thirty four personalities were honoured with *Padma Bhushan*. Prominent among them were: Film actor and director Girish Karnad, flutist Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Dr Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan (space technology), Mrs Mrinalini Sarabhai (dance), Naushad Ali (film music), Mrs Sonal Mansingh (dance), Talat Mahmood (Hindi film singer), Pt C.R. Vyas (vocal music), Prof Romila Thapar (history) and Bijoy Chandra Bhagwati (public life).

Padma Shri: Eighty six prominent persons were awarded *Padma Shri*. Prominent among them were: Former Olympic hockey captain Ajit Pal Singh, mountaineer Hukam Singh, athlete Shriram Singh, former actress Jaya Bachchan, BBC repre-

sentative in India Mark Tully, Biren De (painting), Homi J. Talyarkhan (public life), Intelligence Bureau chief M.K. Narayanan and Mrs Vidyabehn Shah (social work).

Ashok Chakra: The President has awarded Ashok Chakra, the highest civilian gallantry award, to Capt Sandeep Sankhla, posthumously.

Capt Sankhla, of 18 Dogra, laid down his life fighting militants in Jammu and Kashmir in August 1991.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards, 1991

Biological Sciences: Dr Virendra Nath Pandey, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay and Dr Srimvas K Sridapur, Karnataka University, Dharwad.

Chemical Sciences: Dr. Biman Bagchi, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Dr Jhullu Singh Yadav, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad.

Earth, atmosphere, ocean and planetary sciences: Dr Sri Nivas, Kurukshetra University and Dr Sudipta Sengupta, Jadavpur University.

Engineering Sciences: Dr J.B. Joshi, University of Bombay

Mathematical Sciences: Dr Vikram B. Mehta and Dr Annamalai Ramanathan of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay.

Medical Sciences: Dr Shashi Wadhwa, AIIMS, New Delhi.

Physical Sciences: Dr Deepak Dhar and Dr Deepak Mathur, TIFR, Bombay.

The awards carry Rs 50,000 in cash, a citation and a memento. These are given to scientists below 45 years of age for their outstanding research during the last five years.

CSIR Golden Jubilee Awards: Dr G.N. Ramachandran, former Professor, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and Dr C.N.R. Rao, Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, have been selected for the CSIR golden jubilee awards, instituted this year. The award carries Rs one lakh and a medalion.

Saraswati Samman, 1992

* The prestigious *Saraswati Samman* has been conferred on eminent Hindi poet and Litterateur, Dr Harivansh Rai Bachchan for the fourth part of his autobiography *Dastakwar Se Sojan Tak* published in 1985.

The award has been instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation and carries a cash award of Rs 3 lakh and a citation.

Tansen Samman, 1991

* Classical vocalist, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, has been given the Tansen Samman for 1991, instituted by the Madhya Pradesh government. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a citation.

Tulsi Samman, 1991

* The 1991 award has been given to Mr Balappa V. Hukkeri, Mr Balkrishna Das and Mr Jhaduram Devangana for their contribution in promotion and development of tribal folk arts.

The award has been instituted by the government of Madhya Pradesh.

Vikram Sarabhai Award, 1990

* The first Vikram Sarabhai award, instituted by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has been given to Soviet academician V.A. Kotelnikov.

The award will be presented once in two years in recognition of outstanding contributions, made by scientists in the world, to space research in developing countries. The award consists of a gold medal and a citation.

Vyas Samman, 1992

* Noted Hindi writer and critic, Dr Ram Bilas Sharma, has been awarded the first *Vyas Samman* award for his book *Bharat Ke Prachin Bhasha Parivar aur Hindi* which was published in three volumes in 1991.

The award has been instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation and carries a cash award of Rs 1.50 lakh.

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

Nobel Prize, 1991

For Literature: South African author Nadine Gordimer for her novels and short stories focussing on the consequences of living under her country's apartheid system.

separation

For Peace Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi for her non-violent struggle to bring democracy to her country

For Medicine Erwin Neher and Bert Sakmann of Germany share the prize for their discoveries concerning the function of single ion channels in cell

For Physics Pierre Gilles de Gennes of France for work which has led to lap top computer screens and digital watch displays

For Chemistry Richard R Ernst of Switzerland for his contributions to the development of the methodology of high-resolution Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy

For Economics British born Prof Ronald Coase of the University of Chicago USA for his theories which helped explain why companies exist, and also why communist economies collapsed

Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding, 1990

* German Chancellor Mr Helmut Kohl has been awarded the 1990 Jawaharlal Nehru award for International Understanding. Mr Kohl, who has been the Chancellor of West Germany since 1982, has also had the honour of becoming the first Chancellor of the United Germany

Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace and Disarmament

* Rajiv Gandhi has been awarded the Indira Gandhi prize for peace and disarmament, *posthumously* for his outstanding and innovative contribution to the cause of nuclear disarmament, global peace and economic development

Indira Gandhi Award for International Justice and Harmony

* The first Indira Gandhi award for international justice and harmony has been given to PIO chief Yasser Ararat

The award, comprising a silver shield, is instituted by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)

Magsaysay Awards, 1991

For community leadership Sh

Cheng-Yen, a Buddhist nun and the head of Taiwan's most trusted charity for 'reawakening Taiwan's modern people to the ancient Buddhist teachings of compassion and charity'

For journalism, literature and creative communication arts Indian dramatist K V Subbanna. He was recognised for "enriching rural Karnataka's cultural life with the world's best films and the delights and wonder of the living stage"

For public service Crown Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Indonesia

For government service Alferdo Bengzon, health secretary of Philippines

Asia's nobel equivalent, the award carries a certificate, a gold medal and a cash prize of \$30,000. It is named after the Philippine President, Mr Ramon Magsaysay who died in a plane crash in 1957

Booker Prize, 1991

* Britain's prestigious Booker Prize for fiction has been awarded to *The Famished Road* by the Nigerian poet and novelist, Mr Ben Okri

Kalinga Prize, 1991

* The 1991 Kalinga Prize has been shared by Dr N K Sehgal of the Department of Science and Technology and Dr R Iltimovici of Romania. The award is given by UNESCO for exceptional contributions to science and technology

Soviet Land Nehru Award, 1990

* Mother Teresa has been nominated for the 1990 Soviet Land Nehru award

The award carries Rs one lakh cash prize and invitation to visit the Soviet Union for a fortnight

FILM AWARDS

Dada Saheb Phalke Award, 1992

* The Dada Saheb Phalke award for 1992 has been given to Bhalchandra Govind Pendharkar, the veteran Marathi film personality. He has produced, directed and written over sixty Marathi and eight Hindi films in a career spanning over seventy years

National Film Awards, 1992

Best Feature Film (Swarna

Kamal) *Agantuk* (Bengali), directed by Satyajit Ray. The film is about a mysterious visitor who plants himself in an affluent Bengali family thereby sparking off tensions of all kinds

Best Director Satyajit Ray for his film *Agantuk*

Best actor Mohanlal, the popular Malayalam cine-star, for his role in *Bharatham*

Best actress Moloya Goswami, the talented Assamese actress for her work in *Enimogoi*

Best supporting actor PL Naravana for his performance in *Yagnyam* (Tamil)

Best supporting actress Santhadevi for her role in *Yamanan* (Malayalam)

Best child artist Santosh Reddy for his natural performance as the street smart kid in *Bhadram Koduko* (Telugu)

Indira Gandhi Award for best first film of a director *Haladhur* (Assamese) directed by Sanjeev Hazarika

Best playback singer Male K J Yesudas for the Malayalam film *Bharatham*

Female Vani Jayaram for the Telegu film *Swathi Kuranam*

Best music director Rajat Dholakia for Hindi film *Dharam*

Naigis Dutt Award for best film on national integration *Adi Mannasa* directed by A K Bir

Best film on family welfare *Durga* directed by Basu Chatterji

Special Jury award: Soumitra Chatterjee who plays the lead role in the Bengali film *Antardhan*

Regional films: *Sarothi* (Assamese), *Antardhan* (Bengali), *Mysoora Mullige* (Kannada), *Kadavu* (Malayalam), *Tara* (Oriya), *Vanna Vanna Pookal* (Tamil) and *Bhadram Koduko* (Telugu)

Oscar Awards, 1992

* The movie "The Silence of the Lambs", a film about a psychopath killer, has swept all the major Oscars

The film won best actress for Jodie Foster, best actor for Anthony

Hopkins, best director for Jonathan Demme and the best picture awards.

Best picture: The Silence of the Lambs; **Actor:** Anthony Hopkins, The Silence of the Lambs; **Actress:** Jodie Foster, The Silence of the Lambs; **Supporting Actor:** Jack Palance, City Slickers; **Supporting Actress:** Mercedes Ruehl, The Fisher King; **Director:** Jonathan Demme, The Silence of the Lambs; **Original screenplay:** Callie Khouri, Thelma and Louise.

Lifetime achievement award: Satyajit Ray.

BOOKS

Conservationist, The

* Written by Nobel Prize winner Ms Nadine Gordimer, it explores in depth the effect of life in a colour-bar society on individuals who are fundamentally decent and humane.

Ms Gordimer had won the 1974 Booker Prize for this novel.

Famished Road, The

* This novel has won the Nigerian poet and novelist, Mr Ben Okri, the 1991 Booker Prize. It is about an exploration of the real world by a spirit child—Abiku. He is endowed with special powers and he explores modern Nigeria giving the author an opportunity to juxtapose the real and magical worlds.

Freedom from Fear and other Writings

* This is a collection of writings by Nobel Peace Prize winner San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader of Myanmar (Burma) who has been under house arrest for last two years.

In the book Ms Suu Kyi discusses the history of Burmese struggle for independence, the history of her country and how modern political ideas have been adapted by the people of Myanmar. In one chapter she compares India and Burma's experience with colonialism.

Gurusagaram

* Well-known Malayalam novelist and cartoonist Mr O.P. Vijayan has won the prestigious Vayalar Rama Varma literary award for his novel *Gurusagaram*.

A novel of philosophic dimensions, it attempts to explore the rid-

dles of rootless humanity oscillating between the individual psyche and collective consciousness.

Yellow Peril

* Huang Ho or Yellow Peril is an underground novel, written by an unknown author of China, that predicts the collapse of the ruling Communist Party and China's self-destruction in a nuclear civil war.

The author uses the pen name Bao Mi, which means keep secret. The police have claimed to have arrested him. His friends refuse to disclose his name.

DAYS

Sadbhavana Diwas

* August 20, the birthday of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, late Prime Minister of India, was observed as *Sadbhavana Diwas*. The objective of this was to promote harmony among people of all religions, languages and States; to encourage goodwill towards everyone and to eschew violence.

Earth Day on April 22

* April 22 has been declared Earth Day 1990. The day heralded the millennium-end decade of environmental activism in what is envisaged as the largest global demonstration in history. More than 100 million people, world over, took part to celebrate the Earth Day and help spread the message that the environment should be protected.

World No-Tobacco Day

* The World Health Organisation (WHO) had declared May 31 as "No Tobacco Day" to highlight the injurious effects of tobacco.

The day provided an opportunity to initiate research on specific themes and subsequently disseminate information on the harmful use of tobacco.

Tobacco use is currently estimated to account for three million deaths per year worldwide.

The "World No-Tobacco Day" was dedicated to the right of workers to exercise their skills in the cleanest possible atmosphere.

DEFENCE

'Agni' test successful for second

time

* India reaffirmed her perfection in the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile Technology, when the surface-to-surface missile, *Agni*, was successfully test-fired for the second time from the Interim Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur-on-Sea on May 29, 1992.

It also put at rest all speculation that India was putting off the test under pressure from the United States. The second test-firing of *Agni* was earlier postponed five times. *Agni* was first test flown successfully on May 22, 1989.

The second *Agni* test vehicle, like the first, used a solid propellant in the first stage and a liquid propellant in the second. The missile is about 21 metres in length, has a take-off weight of 16 tonnes and a payload capacity of one tonne. The range of *Agni* is 2,500 km.

'Prithvi' launched successfully

* The modern and sophisticated surface-to-surface missile *Prithvi*, was successfully test launched from the Interim Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Balasore district of Orissa on May 5, 1992.

This is for the first time that the missile has been launched from the Chandipur ITR. Earlier, it was launched from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

The successful launch has reiterated Indian defence scientists' capabilities and will add a new dimension to national defence preparedness.

This was the seventh launch, after the failure in the sixth trial in February 1991. It has proved that the improved design will work. The missile had broken in mid-air last time during a difficult manoeuvre to test the structural strength.

Prithvi was testfired for the first time from Sriharikota, on February 25, 1988.

'Nag' can match latest western tank-killers

* India's third generation Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM), *Nag*, when fully developed, could match any of the state-of-the-art tank-killer

weapons in western arsenals

Nag is being developed to counter contemporary advances in tank armour especially the very hard or reactive types of armour

The Gulf war demonstrated the vulnerability of tanks and armoured vehicles from ATGM launched from aircraft, helicopter and even from man-portable weapons

The vulnerability of the tank to the latest generation of anti-tank weapon has cast doubts on the combat efficiency of mechanised forces in offensive operations in a high-density ATM environment

The anti-tank weapon is seen as the answer to the MBT as there is increased pressure on nations to cut defence expenditure. The cost of a man portable anti-tank weapon is often cited in the budget battles to counter procurement of MBT. The international price for a man-portable anti-tank weapon is in the range of \$ 20,000 to \$ 100,000 per round while a fully equipped MBT will cost more than three million dollars

Akash test-launch successful

* India's most modern multi-target surface-to-air missile, *Akash* was successfully test-launched on August 14, 1990 from the interim test range at Chandipur-on-sea, on the northern coast of Orissa

Akash is the fifth missile to be designed in India. The other four are *Prithvi*, *Trishul*, *Agni* and *Nag*. While *Prithvi* is a short-range surface-to-surface missile, *Trishul* is a multi-role, quick reaction, short-range, surface-to-air missile and *Agni* is an intermediate-range surface-to-surface missile

Sixth Command of Indian Army

* The Indian Army has entered a new era with the raising of the Army Training Command (ARTRAC) at Mhow. With the launching of the new Sixth Command, the Indian Army is preparing itself to keep pace with the fast-changing global scenario.

The ARTRAC is envisaged to help the Army in maximising their training effectiveness for the challenging tasks in the hi-tech world,

and to be better prepared for complex battle field situations in futuristic conflict scenarios

Many advanced armies have such an organisation to wholly concentrate on standardising and streamlining their training efforts

The ARTRAC headquarters is organised in three major branches: Strategy and Operational Doctrine Branch, Training Branch and Operational Logistics Branch—each headed by a Major General. The primary role of ARTRAC is the development of concepts and doctrines covering important activities from strategy to human resource development. The main function of this newly created command will be to work as an integrated defence 'think-tank'

INS Shalki—First indigenously built submarine—launched

* The first indigenously-built submarine, *INS Shalki*, was commissioned by Defence Minister, Sharad Pawar, at Indian Naval Dockyard, Bombay on February 7, 1992

INS Shalki, has been constructed at Mazagaon Docks in collaboration with the submarine builder IIDW (Germany). It is based on design provided by IKL (Germany). It is the third submarine of SK (submarine killers) class. The other two being *INS Shishumar* and *INS Shankush* (both made in Germany)

Naval air unit opens

* The Indian Navy made a quantum jump in anti-submarine warfare and long range surveillance on March 11, 1992 when the naval air station *INS Rajali* at Arakkonam near Madras became operational

INS Rajali will be the base for the Navy's state-of-the-art TU 142 M aircraft which can fly 16 hours without refuelling and detect through electronic surveillance enemy submarines and destroy them with its weapon system

The naval air station has been named after *Rajali*, a bird of the eagle family. Equipped with advanced landing and communication systems, the base will be operational round the clock

The decision to set-up the base at Arakkonam was taken for two strategic reasons—for policing the east coast and to avoid the risk of basing all naval air units at Goa

INS Dega Commissioned

* *INS Dega*, the first Naval air station in the East Coast, was commissioned on October 21, 1991

This naval air station has infrastructural facilities for night landing and further expansion of the runway is possible when required

This naval air station is the fourth in the country. The commissioning of the air station, with all modern facilities, is a milestone in the history of the naval air arm

Offshore patrol vessel launched

* *INS Sugata* last in the series of four offshore patrol vessels built by the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, was launched on October 22, 1991

INS Khanjar commissioned

* *INS Khanjar*, the fourth indigenously designed missile corvette, was commissioned at the Naval base in Visakhapatnam on October 22, 1991

The ship is fitted with surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, aircraft guns and sophisticated machinery

EXPEDITIONS

Indian expedition to Everest

* The Indian flag once again fluttered atop the world's highest peak after eight years as three members of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police summited the 8848 metre Mount Everest on May 10, 1992. Sunil Sharma, 29, Kanhaiya Lal, 42 and Prem Singh, 27 of ITBP reached the top at 4 p.m. after a gruelling eleven-and-a-half hour climb from the 7990 metre camp four at South Col

On May 12, 1992 three more members of the Indian team scaled the 8,848-metre Mt Everest

The successful Indians were Mr Dipak Lokjung, Havildar; Ms Santosh Yadav, inspector, and Mr Mohan Singh, sub-inspector, along with two Nepali helpers—Sange Muduk and Wangchuk Sherpa

11th Antarctic Expedition

* M.V. Thuleland, a ship belonging to a private Swedish company, is carrying the 11th Indian expedition to the Antarctica. The 98-member team left Goa on November 27, 1991.

The expedition is headed by Dr Sharadendu Mukherjee, a well-known geologist from the Geological Survey of India. He has already been there twice in 1985 and 1989.

In many ways, the 11th Antarctica expedition is a special one. It includes an artist and a social scientist for the first time.

Dr S.K. Chattopadhyay, a scientist from the Zoological Survey of India, is planning to study bird behaviour in the Antarctica. The G.S.I. is also planning to try out an innovative ice-coat drilling method for geological sampling. Mr Kaliram from Dehra Dun will try to set up a direct telephonic contact between India and the Antarctica through the use of high-frequency waves.

N. ENERGY

Narora's second unit goes 'critical'

* The second 220 megawatt (MW) unit of the Narora Atomic Power Project was successfully tested for production as it attained "criticality" on October 24, 1991. It is the eighth nuclear reactor in the country to reach this important milestone.

The Narora plant is the fore-runner of a whole new generation of reactors of the next decade. The indigenously designed and built reactor incorporates state-of-the-art safety mechanisms. The commissioning of the reactor was delayed by over three years to improve the design to withstand strong earthquakes. The plant is situated in a Seismic Zone. The reactors are designed to withstand a quake of the magnitude of 6.7 on the Richter scale.

The first 220 MW Reactor at Narora attained criticality on March 12, 1989 and it began commercial production when it was synchronised to the northern grid on July 29, 1989.

Synchrotron radiation facility by year-end

* India will become a key member of an exclusive 15-nation club when

its first synchrotron radiation facility, INDUS-1, an advanced nuclear particle accelerator; is commissioned by 1992 end at the Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT), Indore.

A more powerful version of the accelerator, INDUS-2, also being built indigenously, will be commissioned in 1996. Twenty-six such facilities are in operation in developed countries, including the US, UK, Japan, France, Germany, Sweden and Russia, while 17 more are under construction in Brazil, China, Taiwan and South Korea and 10 more are being planned.

Particle accelerators have many important applications. The high energy particle beams are an effective probe for unravelling the innermost structure of the matter and the forces that govern its behaviour. The higher the energy of the particles, the smaller is the size of the matter that can be studied. Smaller accelerators are finding increasing use in medicine and industry. These accelerators are also used widely in industry for treatment of materials, welding, drilling of refractory metals and etching of microchips in the production of integrated circuits.

PERSONS

Anand, Viswanathan

* The 20-year-old Indian grand-master, Viswanathan Anand, has become the first Indian and only the second Asian to qualify for the candidate matches leading to the World Chess Championship.

Asimov, Isaac

* Isaac Asimov, the prolific writer of science fact and fiction, who laid down the literary laws of how robots must behave, died at the age of 72.

In hundreds of books of science fact, Mr Asimov was a master explainer of the abstruse and complicated. He could put an intelligent but ignorant reader at ease with everything from the mysteries of mathematics to the keys to the genetic code.

Azad, Maulana Abul Kalam

* He was one of the stalwarts of India's freedom struggle. He has been honoured with title of Bharat Ratna (posthumously). He had opposed partition of India in 1947. In his

book India Wins Freedom, published in 1958, he had partially blamed Nehru and Patel for the partition of the country.

Throughout his life he championed the cause of Hindu-Muslim unity.

Bose, Subhash Chandra

* Better known as Netaji of Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army), Subhash Chandra Bose has been honoured by the Indian government with a Bharat Ratna (posthumously). He was a powerful nationalist leader and was also elected President of the Indian National Congress once. He gained much prominence for organising I.N.A. during the World War II. He is reported to have died in a plane crash in 1945.

Coase, Prof Ronald

* British-born Prof Ronald Coase of the University of Chicago has won the 1991 Nobel economics prize for his "breakthrough in understanding the institutional structure of the economy".

Ernst, Richard R.

* He was selected for 1991 Nobel Prize for chemistry. 58-year-old Mr Ernst was honoured for his contributions to the development of the methodology of high-resolution Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy.

Gennes, Pierre-Gilles de

* He is the winner of the 1991 Nobel Prize for physics for work which has led to lap-top computer screens and digital watch displays.

Ghali, Boutros Boutros

* Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Deputy Prime Minister of Egypt, has become the first Afro-Arab to become the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

69-year-old Mr Ghali becomes the sixth chief of the 46-year-old world body.

He is an expert on north-south problems and is internationally recognised as one of the most knowledgeable experts on Africa.

Goenka, Ramnath

* Ramnath Goenka, a colossus who straddled the Indian journalistic and political scene for five decades, died

on October 5, 1991.

He was born in Darbhanga in north Bihar on April 18, 1904. After completing his studies at the Kashi Vidyapeeth, he joined his uncle's business in Calcutta and later shifted to Madras. It was from here that he later on managed his Indian Express newspaper chain.

Gordimer, Nadine

* Ms Nadine Gordimer is the recipient of 1991 Nobel prize for literature. She belongs to South Africa.

Gokak, Dr Vinayak Krishna

* Dr Vinayak Krishna Gokak, the giant of the Kannada literary world, died on April 29, 1992 at the age of 82.

He was a harbinger of revolutionary change in modern Kannada poetry and is widely acclaimed for injecting freshness and unorthodoxy in style.

In 1990 he was awarded the Jnanpith award.

Greene, Graham

* Graham Greene, the story-teller whose life and novels seemed to blur the distinction between fiction and reality, died on April 3, 1991.

Through works like "Brighton Rock", "The Third Man" and "The Power and the Glory", he won millions of readers with world-weary but compassionate comments on the underdog.

Kania, M.H.

* Justice M.H. Kania is the new Chief Justice of India. He was sworn-in as the 23rd Chief Justice of India. He succeeded Mr Justice K.N. Singh.

Mr Justice Kania is nephew of the first Chief Justice of India, Mr Justice H.J. Kania. He is the fifth Judicial officer from Maharashtra to occupy the office.

Kohl, Dr Helmut

* German Chancellor Dr Helmut Kohl is the recipient of the 1990 Jawaharlal Nehru award for international understanding.

Dr Kohl who was Chancellor of West Germany since 1982 has also had the honour of becoming the first Chancellor of the re-united Germany. He is one of the outstanding states-

men of post-war Germany, with a political career spanning 44 years.

Kolrala, Girija Prasad

* A firebrand trade unionist, Girija Babu or GP as he is popularly called, is the Prime Minister of Nepal.

Kumar Gandharva

* Noted musician, Kumar Gandharva died on January 12, 1992. He was 67.

He was born as Shivaputrappa Komalimath on April 8, 1924 in Karnataka. His propensity to assimilate the music of the maestros and render them faithfully prompted a Swami to call him Kumar Gandharva and the name stuck. At the tender age of five he rendered *Basant rag* of Savai Gandharva, a noted exponent of Kirana *Gharana*. In his eleventh year, he embarked on the road to stardom with a concert in Allahabad.

Kumar Gandharva had a penchant for creating new ragas, based on folk music. He was always an innovator, making his own path without blindly following the beaten track in the name of sticking to tradition.

Kyi, Aung San Suu

* The 1991 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to the Burmese opposition leader Ms Aung San Suu Kyi. Three short years ago, a housewife in Oxford, England, Ms Aung San Suu Kyi was thrust into the leadership Myanmar's opposition and to world prominence by a combination of heredity and timing.

She is the daughter of Gen Aung San, the hero of Myanmar's independence from Britain and the founder of the Burmese Army.

Mirmira, Krishnamurthy

* He has been awarded the 1991 Jannalal Bajaj award for the application of science and technology for development. For many years, 64-year-old, Mr Krishnamurthy, has been working among the potters in Bhadrawati in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra.

Mukhopadhyaya, Subhash

* Subhash Mukhopadhyaya, an eminent Bengali writer, is the winner of the 1991 Bharatiya Jnanpith award.

In 1962 he received Sahitya

Akademi award for *Jato Durei Jat*, a collection of poems. His first novel *Hungrus* was published in 1973. His other major works were: *Kal Madhumas* (1969), *Et Bhai* (1971) and *Challe Gachhe Bone* (1972).

One of his recent collections, *Ja Re Kagazer Nauka* (1989) speaks of his continued creativity and vision.

Nagaraja, Muni Shri

* He has been awarded the 1990 Moortidevi award. He is a renowned scholar of Hindi, Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit.

Neher, Erwin

* Mr Erwin Neher of Germany is a cell physiologist. He shared the 1991 Nobel Prize for medicine. The award was given to him for discoveries concerning the function of single ion channels in cell.

Nujoma, Sam Daniel

* The Namibian President, Mr Sam Nujoma, belongs to the proud breed of freedom fighters-turned-statesmen in the erstwhile colonies of the Third World. He was awarded the 1990 Indira Peace Prize.

Pandit, Mrs Vijay Lakshmi

* Mrs Vijay Lakshmi Pandit, a stormy petrel of the Indian freedom struggle who played a pivotal role in the political scenario of India, for over six decades, died on December 1, 1990 at the age of 90.

She had a chequered career—a freedom fighter, an ace diplomat, a politician par excellence, a successful governor and an ardent social worker.

Patel, Sardar Vallabhbhai

* A great and vigorous Congress leader and former Deputy Prime Minister of India, he has been honoured by *Bharat Ratna*, the highest civilian award of India, *posthumously*.

Well known as the iron man of India, he is the only individual in Indian history who by persuasion rather than use of force brought about the merger of 600 princely States in the territory administered by the Centre.

Pathak, Justice R.S.

* Mr Justice R.S. Pathak, Chief Justice of India, is the third Indian to be

elected to the International Court of Justice which is the principal judicial organ of the UN

Patil, Shivrāj

* Shivrāj Patil has been elected as the Speaker of the 10th Lok Sabha. Soft-spoken, Mr Patil has earned the respect of fellow members for his complete impartiality as Deputy Speaker of the 9th Lok Sabha

Pendharkar, B.G.

* Bhalchandra Govind Pendharkar, the veteran Marathi film personality, has been honoured with the Dada Saheb Phalke award, 1992

He was born on May 3, 1898 in Kolhapur in Maharashtra. In 1920 he joined the film industry as writer-director and has been actively associated with production of films, since then

Ramdas, Admiral Laxminarain

* He is the Chief of Naval Staff. A specialist in communications, he has held a wide range of operational and staff appointments that eminently qualify him for the new position

Rao, P.V. Narasimha

* A veteran statesman, Mr Pamulaparti Venkata Narasimha Rao is the ninth Prime Minister of India and the first from South India

Popularly known as 'PV', the 71-year-old Mr Rao is the senior-most member of the Congress Working Committee who brings to his new position a wealth of experience as a scholar, lawyer, journalist, linguist and a successful administrator

Ray, Satyajit

* The great film director, Mr Satyajit Ray, died on April 23, 1992 after a prolonged illness

He was born on May 2, 1921 in Calcutta. He began his career as a junior visualiser at the British-owned advertising agency, D.J. Keymer, in April 1943 for Rs 80 per month. He rose to be its art director in a couple of years. But it was in designing books for the Signet Press, a new publishing house started by Mr D.K. Gupta, that he found greater creative satisfaction. At the same time he started writing film scripts

His first film, *Pather Panchali* (1955), based on famous novel by Bib-

huti Bhushan Bandyopadhyay, brought him instant fame with the President's Gold Medal. The film was nothing short of a revolution in its portrayal of human reality

The list of honours received by him include Magsaysay in 1967, Padma Vibhushan in 1974, D. Litt from Oxford London, fellowship of British Film Institute in 1983, the Legion d'Honneur from France in 1984 and the special Oscar and *Bharat Ratna* in 1992

Raza, Rahi Masoom

* Well known Urdu poet Rahi Masoom Raza died on March 15, 1992 at the age of 64. He was a distinguished scholar in linguistics in which he had done his doctorate from the Aligarh Muslim University. He had written dialogues and screenplays for more than 300 films and tele-series. He was associated with the popular TV serial *Mahabharat* as its dialogue writer and was also the moving spirit behind the project

Rodrigues, Gen S.F.

* Gen S.F. Rodrigues, former GOC-in-C, Western Command, is the Chief of the Army Staff. He succeeded Gen V.N. Sharma

Sakmann, Bert

* He is the winner of the 1991 Nobel Prize for medicine for his discoveries concerning the function of single ion channels in cell. He shared the prize with Mr Erwin Neher

Seshan, T.N.

* He is the Chief Election Commissioner of India. Born in 1932, he belongs to the 1955 batch of IAS officers and was attached to the Tamil Nadu Cadre

Sharif, Mohammad Nawaz

* Mr Nawaz Sharif has been elected as the 11th Prime Minister of Pakistan. He is the leader of the Islamic Democratic Alliance

He is a powerful industrialist whose political life dates from the rule of the late dictator Zia-ul-Haq

Sundrani, Dwarko

* Mr Dwarko Sundrani, the managing trustee of the *Samanvaya Ashram* at Bodhgaya in Bihar is the recipient of 1991 Jannalal Bajaj award for out-

standing contribution in the field of constructive work

Suri, Air Chief Marshal N.C.

* One of the most highly decorated officers of Indian Air Force, Air Chief Marshal N.C. Suri is the Chief of Air Staff

Tata, J.R.D.

* Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoi Tata is the recipient of *Bharat Ratna* award for 1992

He was the first in India to qualify as a pilot and was granted pilot licence serial No. 1 in March 1929. He was founder of Air India which was taken-over by the government after nationalisation

PLACES

Afghanistan

* After fourteen years of civil war a ray of hope for peace has kindled in Afghanistan. With the take-over of power by the interim Mujahudeen Council headed by Prof Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, it is hoped that the country will be able to get rid of the strife-torn and war-ravaged atmosphere

Afghanistan is a land-locked country. It is bounded by the former Soviet republics of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tadzhikistan in the north, Iran on the west and on the east and south by Pakistan. In the north east it touches the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region of China and Hunza in Kashmir. The capital is Kabul

The dominant feature of Afghanistan is the great central range of mountains which divides the country approximately from east to west. The inhabitants are divisible into four main cultural groups: the Pashtun (Pathan), the Tadzhik, the Uzbek and the Hazara. The Pathans form about 60% of the population

Afghanistan has been a cross-roads for historical and religious forces between Europe and Asia since the days of Alexander the Great. Chengis Khan and Timur crossed it. Buddhism flowed westward from India, Islam eastward from Arabia. Before World War II the British and imperial Russia assiduously contested the influence and after World War II USSR, China and USA

Mauritius

* Mauritius, the Indian Ocean island nation, became a republic on March 12, 1992 amid colourful ceremonies and celebrations. The formal links with the British Crown came to an end when Governor General Veeraswamy Ringadoo was administered a new oath of office to become the first President of the Republic.

Mauritius, an uninhabited volcanic island near Madagascar, was known to the Arab travellers, but it was rediscovered by the Portuguese sailors in 1507. It was occupied by the Dutch between 1598 and 1710 who introduced sugarcane, African slave workers and human settlements. Later they abandoned it due to economic problems.

The French occupied it between 1715 and 1810 and made it their colony. Subsequently, it came into British possession.

Nearly 72 per cent of the population of Mauritius is of Indian origin.

USSR

* United Soviet Socialist Republic ceased to exist on December 25, 1991. It collapsed as a State in a rush towards freedom and economic reform. It was born in war and revolution and ruled by fear nearly all of its 74 years.

The Union was born in 1917 Bolshevik Revolution led by Vladimir I. Lenin. He took the philosophy of Marx and Engels and applied his iron will to forge a revolutionary party determined to seize power and achieve a classless society in which the State would wither away. A country defeated in World War I became a world power in 25 years and a super power with nuclear weapons a few years later.

The USSR was the founder member of UN and a permanent member of its Security Council (Russia has now taken over the UN membership and the permanent seat of the Security Council).

The Communist Party was the main instrument of power and kept the Union binded together. The failed August coup and deep involvement in the Putsch of the Communist Party

led to it being declared illegal by a newly strengthened Boris Yeltsin, President of Russia. Once the party was gone, the country had only a few months to survive and a new Commonwealth of Independent States was born.

PROJECTS

'Project Elephant' launched

* The Centre has launched a multi-crore rupee country-wide programme for protection and conservation of the elephant—the much-loved animal, celebrated in popular folklore.

A sum of Rs 83 lakh has already been released to the States under the programme and a few crore Rupees more are expected to be disbursed during the 1992-93 financial year.

The ten salient features of 'project elephant' are:

- protection of all the viable populations and their habitats,
- providing corridors linking different parts of the composite elephant range,
- improving the quality of life of the people living in the fringe areas through appropriate eco-development programmes so that their dependence on forests is minimised,
- eradication of weeds like *mikania* and *lantana* and augmenting the number of fodder trees through appropriate plantation programmes,
- mitigating the problems being caused by the isolated populations of elephants to the local people,
- compensating people for loss of life and property caused by the elephants,
- strengthening of anti-poaching infrastructure,
- improved veterinary care and immunisation of domestic live-stock against communicable diseases,
- restoring the feeling of compassion towards elephants through education campaign and extension programmes, and
- scientific research on various aspects of management of elephants and their habitats.

Koel Karo hydroelectric project cleared

* The government has cleared the Koel Karo hydroelectric project in Bihar which has been hanging fire for nearly a decade.

The project, expected to be completed in eight years, has a capacity of 710 MW. It will have four units of 172.5 MW capacity each totalling 690 MW. It will also have an additional power house containing a single unit of 20 MW.

The project envisages the construction of an earthen dam—44 metres in height and 1965 metres long—across the river south Koel at Basia along with a 33.78 km long trans-basin channel and a 55-metre high and 2456-metre long earthen dam across the north Karo river at Lohajimi.

There will also be an underground power house at Lumpungkhel to accommodate four units of 172.5 MW each.

Gandhar power project cleared

* The Government has approved the setting up of the 650 MW Gandhar gas-based power project Stage 1 in Gujarat. It is estimated to cost Rs 1860.11 crore.

Of the total estimated cost, a sum of Rs 1656.30 crore has been earmarked for the power station and facilities and Rs 203.81 crore for the associated transmission system, both of which will be executed by the National Thermal Power Corporation.

The project, to be located in Bharuch district of Gujarat, will be implemented with Japanese assistance.

Dulhasti project to be commissioned in record time

* The Rs 1,263 crore, 390-MW, Dulhasti hydroelectric power project, undertaken by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) is expected to go on stream in a record period of less than five years.

The entire project, due to be commissioned by July, 1994, will be underground except for the 65-metre high dam and transmission wires jutting out of the hill-side. All the other

infrastructure, including intake and desilting system, surge shafts and the power house complex, would be in the embryo of the hills.

Dhauliganga hydroelectric project approved

* The Economic Affairs Committee of the Union Cabinet has cleared the Rs 600-crore, 280 MW, Dhauliganga hydroelectric project in Uttar Pradesh. The entire project will be executed with indigenous resources without any foreign tie-up.

The project is located on Dhauliganga river, which is a tributary of Kali river. It envisages construction of a 56-metre high rock fill dam, a 5.8 km long headrace tunnel and an underground power house to install four generating units of 70 MW each. The project has been conceived as a run of the river scheme and is expected to afford an annual energy generation of 1,134 million units in a 90 per cent dependable year.

SPACE RESEARCH

ASLV blasts off into space

* India accomplished another landmark in space technology with the successful launch of its Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV), on May 20, 1992 which placed a SROSS satellite in a 450 km orbit.

The third successful developmental flight of ASLV came after two failures of two rockets in the same series. The first launch on March 24, 1987, was abortive as the first stage motor failed to ignite. The second flight on July 13, 1988, failed 150 seconds after launch following failure of control systems.

The ASLV was designed and built at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram, India's lead centre for launch vehicles.

SROSS Satellite: The indigenous upper atmosphere and space research programmes got a boost with the successful deployment of the 106-kg SROSS (Stretched Rohini Series) satellite by the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV).

The satellite, the heaviest to be

launched from Indian soil, has two important payloads—a retarding potential analyser built at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi, to study the ionosphere and a Gamma Ray Burst (GRB) detector, designed and fabricated at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Bangalore, to analyse solar activity in the atmosphere.

IRS-1B launched successfully

* India's second remote sensing satellite, IRS-1B, shot into space on a Soviet rocket on August 29, 1991 notching its eighth success in space in 16 years.

The indigenously designed state-of-the-art remote sensing satellite, was successfully launched from Baikonur cosmodrome in the Soviet Union on Soviet rocket "Vostok".

It was the fifth launch of an Indian Satellite from the Soviet Union. All of them have been successful like the first, Aryabhata, launched on March 19, 1975. The other satellites are Bhaskara-I, Bhaskara-II, and IRS-1A.

IRS-1B weighs about 980 kg and carries a 700 watt solar array. Its main payload consists of three cameras to provide visible and infrared imageries of the earth.

IRS-1B will scan the sub-continent using the liner imaging and self-scanning LISS cameras that provide a synoptic view of the sub-continent. The high-tech cameras were indigenously made at the Space Applications Centre in Ahmedabad.

'Discovery' launch

* The US space shuttle *Discovery* was launched on January 22, 1992 with seven astronauts and an assortment of creatures on board.

Among the specimens that were on board were: roundworms, fruit flies, yeast, bacteria, slime mold, frog eggs and sperm, fetal mouse bones, oat and wheat seedlings, lentil roots, hamster kidney cells and human blood cells.

The idea was to see how plants respond in orbit to varying amounts of light and artificial gravity, and how animal and cell development is affected by weightlessness and space radiation.

Endeavour Space Shuttle Mission

* Shuttle *Endeavour* landed in the California desert with seven astronauts on May 17, 1992 ending a triumphant spacewalking mission in which three men caught a massive satellite by hand.

\$2 billion space shuttle, the replacement for the destroyed Challenger, is the first shuttle to be equipped with a drag chute. The chute is intended to reduce the distance the shuttle rolls by 300 to 600 metres, letting the orbiter land on shorter runway.

A \$ 370m space rescue mission:

In a last-ditch effort three space shuttle astronauts reached up with hands and caught a 4-tonne, slowly spinning, satellite in a risky effort to save the craft. It was the first three-man spacewalk ever. Success had eluded *Endeavour's* seven-member crew on two previous days.

The three astronauts surrounded the satellite like three legs of a tripod. The operation required extraordinary delicacy. Any jarring motion could have caused the fuel inside the satellite to start it rocking.

Neither the United States nor Russia has ever had three people outside a ship in space at one time. Astronauts have captured satellites by hand all three times they have tried—twice in 1984 and once in 1985. Two of those craft were brought back to earth. The other was rewired and boosted to higher altitude.

ERS-1, an environmental ally in space

* Environments have gained a valuable ally in space in the form of the first European earth observation satellite, ERS-1.

In future, the captains of industry who discharge waste or rinse their oil tanks at sea, will have to be prepared for imposition of penalties by authorities waiting in ports.

Illegal burning of the tropical rain forests will no longer remain hidden under a dense cover of clouds, for the European remote sensing satellite ERS-1 will "see through" clouds.

The satellite will detect ecological damage on land and at sea, trace

environmental polluters and help avert ecological disasters. Additionally, it will supply vital data on global climatic changes which is important for environment protection

UN

New Members

* The General Assembly admitted seven new members on September 18, 1991 whose entry into the UN would have been unthinkable at the height of the cold war

The new members—North and South Korea, the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and the two pacific island nations of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands—were admitted by the assembly by acclamation

On March 2, 1992 nine members, including San Marino and eight republics of the former Soviet Union were admitted, thus raising its membership to 175

The eight republics are Moldova, Kirgistan, Armenia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan

The former Yugoslav republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia were admitted to the United Nations, raising its membership to 178

MISCELLANY

Tallest TV Tower in Ramgarh

* The country's tallest TV tower is being constructed near Ramgarh village in Jaisalmer district, on the Indo-Pakistan border. The extraordinary height of the tower—300 metres—would extend *Doordashan* coverage to remote areas. Programmes relayed through it, by a 10 kw transmitter, would be received in an area of 250 sq km, covering villages of Jaisalmer, Barmer and Jodhpur districts

With a 255 metre concrete structure and a 45 metre steel mast, the Ramgarh TV tower would be 65 metre taller than the TV tower in Delhi. At 235 metre the Delhi tower is the tallest in the country, at present

First hospital on rails

* The world's first hospital on rails, Lifeline Express, was flagged off by 12-year-old Sangeeta Pagdhare on July 16, 1991

The project will cover the entire country on the Indian Railway's vast network, penetrating remote areas where medical facilities are not available

Launched by Impact India and Indian Railways it will provide free medical aid to the disabled through its team of medical experts and social workers

Pre-human fossil 2.4 m years old

* Scientists say they have identified the oldest well documented fossil specimen of the immediate predecessors of humans, pushing back the direct evidence for this evolutionary line by 5,00,000 years

According to them the three inch scrap of skull bone found 25 years ago in Kenya was 2.4 million years old and came from a member of the evolutionary group called *Homo*

India's forest cover goes up by 5 per cent

* Latest satellite imagery surveys have established, beyond doubt that India's forest cover has gone up by more than five per cent in the past few years

The country's forest cover, which was estimated to have depleted to an abysmal low of 14 per cent of its total land area, has gone up to 19 or 20 per cent

The development is being billed as a major breakthrough in restoring India's ecology and environment, which had suffered in a big way to the altar of development

However, a total reversal of the process of environmental and ecological degradation is still a far cry as ideally speaking at least one-third of the country's total land mass should have a forest cover

Upto 1989, wastelands were expanding at a rapid pace at the rate of 47,000 hectares annually. Then the process was virtually reversed following massive afforestation efforts. Satellite imagery has shown that the country's forest cover had been increasing at the rate of 63,000 hectares every year, since 1989

India joins global banking computer network

* India has joined a worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication Network

The Indian network of the Belgium-based Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) was first conceived in 1982 by Indian Bank's Association (IBA)

Twenty-six of the country's leading banks and 11 branch offices of foreign banks are being linked to the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) global computer network that allows financial institutions around the world to do business with each other

The network carries more than 1.50 million messages a day that relate to a wide range of banking transactions, including customer and bank transfers, documentary credits and travellers' cheques

With this, banks in India will join more than 3,000 financial institutions around the world using the SWIFT network. The first to be connected to the network will be the State Bank of India

Abuja to be new Nigerian capital

* Abuja is to be the new administrative capital of Nigeria

The Nigerian authorities have decided to make Abuja the capital of Nigeria due to its central location and to relieve the pressure of Lagos, located in the southern Nigeria, which has become a congested town

Mongolia changes name

* Mongolia has officially dropped "People's Republic" from its name and formally adopted new constitution on January 13, 1992

The Central Asian nation's legislature adopted by a majority the name "State of Mongolia", removing one of the last remnants of a Stalinist past

Mongolia held its first democratic elections in 1990, ending 69 years of communist rule and adopting a radical programme to privatise its economy

NAM gets two new members

* Guatemala and Papua New Guinea have been included as full fledged members of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) while Cambodia has resumed membership of the movement after an absence of 13 years

SPORTS Round-up

ARCHERY

7th Asian Cup Tournament

* South Korea swept six gold medals in the men's division and won four of six in the women's competition in the 7th Asian Cup archery tournament, held in Manila, Philippines.

South Korea won the team title for both divisions. Japan were placed second overall and China was third among fifteen nations.

14th Senior National Championship

* International Archer Limba Rani of Rajasthan retained the gold medal, securing 317 points, in the men's section of the individual grand NTA final of the 14th senior national archery championship held at JRD Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur.

In the women's category, Lumaola Hunagyo of Manipur became the new national champion securing 318 points.

ATHLETICS

3rd World Athletics Championships

* The third world championships in athletics got under way at Tokyo, Japan with a gala ceremony that welcomed 2,451 athletes and officials from 168 nations and territories.

On the second day of the championships Carl Lewis of USA retained the world title in 100M in 9.86 seconds, 0.4 of a second under team-mate Leroy Burrell's old mark of 9.90 set in the US championships in June 1991.

Katrin Krabbe of Germany caused the biggest upset of the championships as she beat Merlene Ottey of Jamaica to win the women's 100 metres gold. She was also winner of the gold medal in 200 metres.

Another historic moment was recorded when Mike Powell of USA leaped to 8.95 metres to set a world

record in the men's long jump. For the last 23 years the record had stood in the name of Bob Beamon who had jumped 8.90 metres during the 1968 Mexico City Olympics.

Medals tally of first ten countries was as follows:

	G	S	B
United States	10	5	8
Soviet Union	9	9	10
Germany	5	4	8
Kenya	4	3	1
Britain	2	2	3
China	2	1	1
Algeria	2	0	1
Jamaica	1	1	3
Finland	1	1	1
France	1	1	0

1993 championships to be held at Stuttgart. The first world athletics championships under a new cycle of two years will be held in the German city of Stuttgart in 1993.

Gothenburg, Sweden has been picked up to host the 1995 championships.

IAAF Grand prix

* Soviet pole vault phenomenon Sergei Bubka and German high jumper Heike Henkel were crowned King and Queen of the 1991 IAAF grand prix competition.

Bubka not only won the season's pole vault prize worth 10,000 dollars, but his win also catapulted him to the top of the overall men's competition where he picked up a further cheque for 25,000 dollars.

Henkel also won her event and beat Jamaican sprinter Merlene Ottey and Soviet mile runner Natalia Artyomova to the overall title, although all three finished on 63 points.

9th Asian Track and Field (ATF) meet

* China maintained its supremacy, claiming 24 of the 40 gold medals at

stake, in the ninth Asian Track and Field meet which ended at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on October 23, 1991.

The Indians, who in the last meet at Delhi had been runners up with seven golds, nine silvers and six bronzes, finished with only two golds, four silvers and two bronzes.

The Indian 4x400 m women's relay team comprising of Jinumani Saikia, Dhanalakshmi, K. Saramma and Shiny Wilson won the women's relay team gold. This was the fourth time in a row that India had claimed gold in this event.

European Cup

* The Soviet Union won the men's title and women's title of the European Cup championships held at Frankfurt, Germany.

The men's title was won for the sixth time. Soviet Union were declared champions in men's section with 114 points, ahead of Britain with 110.5 points and Germany with 108 points.

In the women's section Soviet Union finished with 113 points, ahead of Germany with 109 and Britain with 81 points.

31st Open National Championship

* Women from the Railways retained the team championship with a whopping tally of 120 points, while the Food Corporation of India (42) and Life Insurance Corporation (41) finished second and third.

In the men's section Services with 157 points overthrew Railways (107), to bag the top slot. Indian Police finished a close third with 101 points.

The meet was held at Bombay.

30th Inter-State National Championship

* Kerala, who had the richest haul of 11 golds, seven silvers and seven bronze medals in the championship,

regained the overall championship with an aggregate of 176.5 points, followed by Tamil Nadu with 116 points. To complete the domination of southern States, Karnataka took the third spot with 112.5 points.

The meet was held at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.

BADMINTON

World Cup

* World number one Andy Wiranata of Indonesia defeated Zhao Jianhua of China 12-15, 15-7, 15-10 to win the World Cup title held at Macau, Hong Kong.

Huang Hua of China defeated the defending champion Sarwendah Kusumawardhani of Indonesia, 12-11, 11-5 to take the women's singles crown.

Thomas Cup

* Hosts Malaysia scored a memorable 3-1 victory over Indonesia to win the Thomas Cup, symbol of world badminton supremacy.

This was Malaysia's first Thomas Cup victory in 25 years.

Uber Cup

* Champions China came back from the brink of defeat to win the Uber Cup women's badminton team title for the fifth successive time. They beat South Korea 3-2.

National Championships

Men's singles: Rajeev Bagga (Maharashtra)

Women's singles: Manjusha Pawangadkar (Maharashtra)

Women's doubles: Manjusha and Archana Deodhar (Maharashtra)

Mixed doubles: Sindhu Gulati and Harjeet Singh (Railways)

BASKETBALL

42nd National Championship

* Railways' supremacy in the national basketball scene was proved beyond doubt when they retained the Edward William Lodd Memorial Trophy for the men's event for the fifth consecutive year.

Railways also won the women's title beating Punjab 78-48.

BOXING

Sixth World Amateur Championships

* Cuba topped the sixth amateur boxing championships.

Cuba finished with four golds, two silver and three bronze for a total of nine medals from their 12-man contingent.

Bulgaria were a surprise runner-up with two golds, a silver and two bronze medals.

16th Asian Championship

* South Korea emerged as the leading Asian boxing nation claiming six golds at the 16th Asian Boxing Championships which concluded at Bangkok.

38th Senior National Championship

* In a dramatic turn of events, the pugilists of Services did their team proud by bagging as many as six gold medals to retain the overall championship title in the 38th Senior National Boxing Championship which concluded at Jamshedpur.

BRIDGE

National Championship

* R. Krishnan and I.P.J. Albuquerque both from Madras, annexed the Kakimada Trophy having won the Life-masters category of pairs event with 342 points in the National Bridge Championship.

Dr P.D. Boaz from Madras, and Arun Biswas from Calcutta, in their maiden partnership, claimed the Sundaram Trophy for the pairs event of the National Masters with 141 points.

The Ramamurthy Trophy Cup was lifted by Maharashtra when Raymonds team from Bombay defeated Kamalkar's team in the final of the National Bridge mixed team event by 41 international match points.

Inter-State Championship

* Tamil Nadu represented by R. Raj Kumari, B. Prabhakar, K.R. Venkataraman, R. Krishnan and R. Ravichandran regained the Gurudutt Trophy, the symbol of supremacy in Inter-State bridge championship, defeating Maharashtra by 29 international match points in the final held at

Shimla.

CHESS

World Women Championship

* Xie Jun of China captured the world women's chess championship by drawing a match with Maya Chiburdanidze of the Soviet Union, who had held the title since 1978.

5th Asian Women Championship

* International women's master Bhagyashree Thipsay won the fifth Asian chess championship which concluded in Bhopal on October 29, 1991.

29th National Championship

* Pravin Mahadev Thipsay emerged the new national champion on a day when N. Sudhakar Babu became India's 13th international master in the 29th national chess championship which ended in Patna on March 16, 1992.

National-A Women's Championship

* International woman master Bhagyashree Thipsay (Maharashtra) won the 17th National-A women's chess championship.

CRICKET

World Cup

* Veterans Imran Khan and Javed Miandad combined to lift Pakistan to a 22-run victory over England in the World Cup final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Australia.

The duo—the only players to have played in all five World Cup tournaments—picked up Pakistan's run-rate and combined in a brilliant third-wicket stand of 139.

Pakistan made 249 for six wickets in 50 overs and dismissed England for 227 with four balls remaining to win the Cup for the first time.

England were the beaten finalists for the third time.

Sharjah Cup

* A hat-trick of lbws—all delayed decisions in good light—destroyed India's hopes of matching an improved Pakistani batting performance in the final of the Wills Trophy International cricket tournament played at Sharjah.

Of the 12 tournaments conducted here so far, Pakistan won their sixth

title with an emphatic 72-run victory over India. This was their fifth successive win.

Irani Trophy

* Haryana did the incredible by winning the Irani Trophy with a four-wicket victory over Rest of India at the Nahar Singh Stadium in Faridabad.

Ranji Trophy

* Delhi expectedly won their sixth Ranji Trophy title when they beat Tamil Nadu by virtue of their 83-run first innings lead, the five-day final ending in a tame draw at Kotla in New Delhi.

Wills Trophy

* An all-round performance by Sachin Tendulkar steered Board President's XI to a 28-run victory over Wills XI in the final of the Wills Trophy one-day cricket tournament.

Deodhar Trophy

* South Zone regained the Deodhar Trophy after 10 years when they registered a comfortable 36-run victory over Central Zone in the final.

Duleep Trophy

* West Zone, chasing a victory target of 457, crashed to a paltry total of 220 off 83 overs. North's 236-run win over West was the one of the most humiliating for West in its Duleep history.

C.K. Nayudu Trophy

* North Zone defeated South Zone by six runs in an exciting one-day limited-overs final to lift the C.K. Nayudu Cricket Trophy (under-19).

FOOTBALL

European Cup

* Barcelona finally stepped out of the shadow cast by Real Madrid when they won the European Cup after a memorable final against Sampdoria of Italy, played at London.

Women's World Championship

* The largest crowd in the history of women's football saw the United States snatch a last ditch goal to beat Norway 2-1 in the final of the inaugural FIFA Women's Cup held in China.

Asia Cup

* Favourites Iran emerged the winners to lift the Charminar Challenge Trophy in the Asia Cup (group three) qualifying football tournament played at the Salt Lake Stadium, Calcutta.

Asian Women's Championship

* The invincible Chinese team defeated Japan 5-0 in the final to win their third straight title in the eighth Asian women's soccer championship.

President's Cup

* Hosts South Korea have won the 19th President's Cup international football tournament beating Egypt 2-0.

DCM Cup

* Iran's Pas Club lifted coveted DCM Football Cup after they registered a solitary goal victory to snuff out Mohun Bagan's hopes of preventing the trophy from being going abroad for the eighth time in a row.

48th National Championship

* Nearly two decades after Kerala won the Santosh Trophy for the first time at Ernakulam in 1973, they regained it in the Lifebuoy-sponsored 48th national football championship at the Nehru Stadium in Coimbatore.

16th women's National Championship

* Bengal beat Rajasthan 6-5, via a tie-breaker, in a closely-fought final to lift the 16th women's national soccer title.

Durand Cup

* East Bengal had to wait until the tie-breaker to lift their third successive Durand Cup and write their name in the annals of Durand history.

Rovers Cup

* Annappa Kumar opened the door for Chima Okerie to strike the only goal of the final of the Lifebuoy Rovers Cup Football tournament and help Mohun Bagan to gain their 12th success. Mohun Bagan defeated Mohammedan Sporting.

Federation Cup

* Favourites Mohun Bagan missed chances galore but still beat arch rivals East Bengal by a 2-0 in the 16th

Federation Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium, Calcutta.

Subroto Cup

* Sports College, Lucknow, fulfilled their long-standing desire of winning the prestigious Subroto Cup when they defeated Bidhan Nagar Govt High School, Calcutta, 3-4.

HOCKEY

Champions Trophy

* Andreas Becker guided the German men to the Champions Trophy with a 2-0 win over holders Australia in Berlin on September 22, 1991. They were followed by Pakistan and Holland.

Sultan Azlan Shah tournament

* That India are still a force to reckon with in world hockey was more than proved when they outclassed and outmanoeuvred a robust Soviet Union by three goals to nil and annexed the Sultan Azlan Shah hockey championship at the Azlan Stadium in Ipoh, Malaysia. India last won the championship in 1985.

4th Indira Gandhi International Women's tournament

* Soviet Union defeated Asian Games champions South Korea 3-1 to win the fourth Indira Gandhi International women's hockey tournament held at Chandigarh.

55th Men's National Championship

* Services lifted the Rangaswamy Cup with an aggregate of five goals of four against Indian Airlines in the Lifebuoy 55th men's national hockey championships.

45th Women's National Championship

* Star studded Indian Railways won the prestigious Lady Ratan Tata Cup, the symbol of supremacy in women's hockey, for the 13th time in a row, when they defeated the never-say-die Bihar 1-0 in extra time in the 45th Senior Women Hockey Championship.

ROWING

National Championship

* Services Sports Control Board toppled holders Corps of Engineers Rowing Association to bag the Shakti trophy for overall men's championship in the National Rowing Cham-

pionship held at the Madras Boat Club.

Kerala Race Boat and Rowing Association were winners in the women's section.

SHOOTING

National Trap Shooting Championship

* The team title of the national trap shooting championships went to the Punjab team comprising of Randhir Singh, Gurbir Singh and Gurmeet Singh Sadhi, who logged 372 points out of 450.

The individual title went to Mansher Singh who logged 209 points from his 225 shots.

SQUASH

World Open Squash title

* Australia's Rodney Martin took the men's World Open title with a stunning upset victory over six-times champion Jahangir Khan of Pakistan.

National Championships

* Adrian Ezra and Bhuvaneshwari Kumari retained their titles in the men's and women's sections, respectively, of the DCM Shriram national squash championships played at New Delhi.

TABLE TENNIS

World Cup title

* Reigning world champion Jorgen Persson of Sweden outplayed Jean Philippe Gatin of France to win the 80,000-dollar 555 World Cup table tennis title.

33rd National Championships

* Defending champion Kamlesh Mehta entered the record books by taking the men's title for the seventh time.

Niyoti Shah of Tamil Nadu maintained her winning streak and took the women's title, 6-21.

TENNIS

US Open Championships, 1991

* The women's title of the 1991 US Open championships was won by 17-year-old Monica Seles of USA who defeated 35-year-old Martina Navratilova 7-6, 6-1 in the final.

Stefan Edberg of Sweden took the men's title with ease defeating Jim Courier of USA.

Wimbledon Championship, 1991

* Michael Stich of Germany, playing in his first Grand Slam final, thrashed triple champion Boris Becker to win the men's title of the 1991 Wimbledon championships.

Steffi Graf guaranteed a German singles sweep at 1991 Wimbledon tennis championships when she beat Argentine Gabriela Sabatini in a fluctuating women's final.

French Open, 1991

* Jim Courier thwarted Andre Agassi's in the men's singles final of the French Open.

Monica Seles of Yugoslavia defended her French Open title and her number one ranking with a relentless, hard earned victory over Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain.

Australian Open

* Jim Courier, overcame top-seeded Stefan Edberg's to take the Australian Open men's final.

World number one Monica Seles kept her Australian Open Tennis Crown with straight sets thrashing of American Mary-Joe Fernandez.

Davis Cup, 1991

* Guy Forget, riding on a wave of patriotic emotion, earned France their first Davis Cup title in more than half a century when he beat Pete Sampras of USA in the first of the reverse singles.

France, who had not won the Davis Cup since 1932, started the tie as clear underdogs against the holders.

Federation Cup

* Spain lifted the Federation Cup for the first time by clinching a thrilling 2-1 win over the United States.

National Championships

* Syed Zeeshan Ali regained the national championship title brushing aside an erratic Rohit Reddy in straight sets.

Bombay's Janaki Kirshnamurthy justified her top-seeding to grasp the women's title.

VOLLEYBALL

National Championships

* Tamil Nadu men and Railways women retained their respective national titles in the 40th national vol-

leyball championships.

WRESTLING

National Championship

* The Services claimed a double after a lapse of 17 years when they annexed the free-style and the Greco-Roman titles in the National wrestling championship held at Bhilwara.

GAMES

Winter Olympics, 1992

* Sixty five nations participated in the biggest Winter Olympics in history, held at Albertville, France, from February 9 to 23, 1992.

The games ended with Germany on top of the medals tally. They were followed by Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Austria and Norway, in that order.

SAF Games

* It was a riot of colour and traditional pageantry on the inaugural day of the fifth SAF Games which were officially declared open under the usual fanfare at the Sugathadasa Stadium by Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa on December 22, 1991.

'Pancha' mascot for SAF Games: 'Pancha', a baby elephant in a playful mood, very much like 'Appu' of the 1982 New Delhi Asian Games fame, was the mascot for the fifth South Asian Federation Games.

Final Medals Tally

	G	S	B
India	64	59	41
Sri Lanka	44	33	41
Pakistan	28	33	24
Bangladesh	4	8	29
Nepal	2	8	30
Maldives	0	1	0

Bhutan ended without any medal.

1993 SAF Games in Kathmandu: The 1993 South Asian Federation Games will be held in Nepal. The Games would be organised in Kathmandu.

16th World Student Games

* USA topped the medals tally of the 16th World Student Games held at Sheffield, England.

India in 2001

WE are almost on the threshold of the 21st century and like the proverbial 'slip between the cup and the lip', things can go awry and awkward at the slightest misdemeanour if we lose sight of the ground realities of today. No doubt what we sow today in the fields of science and technology, agriculture and industry, environment and development, education and ethics, fashions and fads, will bear fruit, in the next few years and that will constitute the salient features of India's personality and position in the comity of nations in the year 2001.

When human beings aim at reaching their desired destination, they make a judicious use of their physical and mental powers but with countries like India, beset with multi-dimensional flaws and fragmentations, the uncertainties haunt like invisible ghosts to thwart and throttle well-defined and meticulously demarcated areas of action. In order to assert one's place in the highly competitive and quality-conscious world, the economy of a country should be as strong and stimulating as a human heart. And here lie the guts and grit of our determination, to liberate our economy from unnecessary controls and curbs so that the entrepreneurial skill of an Indian gets its much needed boost to plan, programme and practise his ideas and thus enable the country to find its own feet in the world.

To say that all our problems will be solved by the magic wand of 'liberalisation' is to deny the existence of many 'ifs and buts'. Nations like individuals should not fail to do their home-work properly, timely and intelligently before embarking upon a new course and that is what

promises to lead us to the much cherished economic millennium (happiness and prosperity) by 2001.

On the political front, the trends are not very encouraging, although India has been practising parliamentary democracy for more than forty years now. Some bold and corrective measures are urgently and immediately needed to rid the Indian political system of its many ills and aberrations that have crept into its working. Gandhiji's dream of 'people's democracy' or the operation of democracy at the grass-root levels is yet to be put into real and tangible shape. If things are allowed to drift and drag the political situation may not be very different in 2001 from the one prevailing now. By rising above petty politics and politicking in every walk of life, the 'powers that be' can still retrieve/reform the situation before it becomes too late to mend and pull out the country from the prevailing unenviable environment when it gets ready to embrace the 21st century in less than a decade from now.

The Indian social spectrum is riven with feuds and frictions and the goal of 'social justice' for all, especially the most down-trodden and the poorest of the poor, remains a distant dream. All efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the lowest in the social strata have proved, more or less a shadow fight. As things stand now, where too many people are chasing too few avenues of employment, the future is anything but certain. But still the intentions are laudable.

Ranking second on the population map of the world and having the third largest pool of scientists and engineers in the world, we are poorly placed at 121 position as far as

human development index is concerned (UNDP). In India the prime cause of pollution and degradation of environment is the huge and ever-growing population. The exploding numbers will always require more resources just to survive. We cannot preserve forests until the demand for fuelwood and living space declines. Industrial contaminants will increase with the production of more goods. Vehicular pollution, dust and smoke, carbon dioxide are on the rise and if the 'New Pollution Control Policy' and 'The National Conservation strategy and policy on environment and development', as announced by the government, are not implemented with as much earnestness as the situation warrants, we shall have to walk in the streets of our cities with gas masks by 2001.

With the successful launching of medium/short range ballistic missiles and also by sending satellites into the space, we have proved our credentials as a regional power. With no hegemonistic ambitions to realise, India wants to enter the 21st century with the affirmation and assertion that she knows her mind and she will not succumb or compromise her national interests, whatever be the nature of pressures and threats to force her to change the course of her action.

Will it be a cake-walk into the 21st century or will it be a tight-rope walking into the year 2001? The optimists will hold out a rosy picture whereas the sceptics would warn us to tighten our belts before we bid 'adieu (goodbye)' to the 20th century. Whatever be the shape of things to come, none in his senses can take the unfolding of events with complacency.

NEW ROLE FOR U.N.?

In the third week of June 1992, Dr Boutros Ghali, the Secretary-General, put forth a new agenda and outlined a larger role for the U.N. as directed by the Security Council at its special summit in January. There have been mixed reactions to the proposal to reorganise the world body structure. The proposition for discussion is: The new agenda for the U.N. outlined by its Secretary-General has little chance of success in resolving crises.

Mr A Sir, the failures of the United Nations in recent months in maintaining world peace have been so many and the successes so few that only the incorrigible optimist would assert that this organisation can prove effective in fulfilling the hopes pinned on it. Let me quote a few instances in this regard. In Cambodia, West Asia, Western Sahara and Yugoslavia (not to mention Cyprus and Somalia) the U.N. has lately been facing a virtual crisis. In Afghanistan, despite its earlier thrust and initiative, the UN has been marginalised and its plan for ensuring peace in Kabul almost forgotten. The Pakistan Government backed the UN peace plan. Mr Sevan, the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General, had used all his persuasive powers and his negotiating capacity to bring round the Mujahideen rebels, but the latter virtually ignored it. They decided to resolve the Afghan tangle themselves without intervention of the UN or of any foreign power. At the end of June one provisional President, Prot Moadidi handed over power to another—Prot Rabbani—without UN intervening. Agreed plans, worked out with much labour by UN emissaries, have also been discarded one by one in West Asia, Yugoslavia and elsewhere. None of

the sensitive and sorely troubled regions of the world have sought UN intervention because they are fully aware of this organisation's severe limitations. In Iraq the Saddam Hussein regime has made non-sense of this body's resolutions to disarm the country of its weapons of mass destruction, even though the US went all out to humiliate the Iraqi leader and render his country ineffective through sanctions. The Secretary-General himself reported in May this year that the parties concerned in Yugoslavia had shown no respect for the agreements they had reached after prolonged negotiations. Worse, UN plans for resolving the tangle have been turned down and the world body's personnel insulted and virtually compelled to leave. With much hope and after prolonged efforts the Security Council passed resolution no. 752 which urged the warring parties to withdraw their forces from Bosnia Herzegovina and demobilise them. It has not been implemented. Moreover, the appeals for ensuring due protection of humanitarian assistance sent for the suffering civilians were ignored. In Cambodia the Khmer Rouge have denied full access to UN peace-keeping forces to areas under its control. With all such setbacks, what prospects can there be for effective implementation of the UN's wider role envisaged by the Secretary-General? Let us not live in an imaginary world but face the harsh realities squarely.

Mr B I am afraid my predecessor has presented only the darker side of the picture and has completely ignored the brighter side. It is true that many failures and setbacks

marred the UN image during the prolonged Cold War. But things have changed now. As the UN Secretary-General has pointed out, we have entered a time of global transition which is characterised by unique trends. Regional and continental associations of States are evolving ways and means to promote cooperation and ease the tensions. The formidable ideological barriers which for decades created distrust and hostility—and also led to the proliferation of terrible weapons of mass destruction—have been broken at long last. At present there is a global trend for encouraging democratic forces and responsive governments. Actually, there has been a worldwide change in the outlook of the people, except in a few isolated pockets where too the local conflicts will, I feel sure, soon fade away. In the new climate there is a growing realisation that humanity urgently requires durable peace, not stockpiles of destructive weapons. Sustained economic development, which is the crying need of the hour, can be ensured only when there is no diversion of scarce funds from constructive purposes to armed conflicts. Those who focus attention on the dismal fact that since the establishment of the UN in 1945, more than 100 major conflicts have taken place in the world and about 20 million people have been killed in these conflicts, overlook the fact that the UN was powerless to resolve these conflicts because of the veto exercised 279 times in the Security Council. These vetoes were a reflection of the powerful power blocs. But with the termination of the Cold War the veto power has fallen into disuse, notably since May 31, 1990. Besides, the demands on the UN to inter-

vene and promote security have increased, and with greater hope all round. This is a significant development which is likely to promote cordiality. I would also submit that the general atmosphere in various continents at present is one of hope and confidence in the future, not one of despair and gloom. So, the prospects of success of an organisation such as the UN (now it has 179 members) are as good and as bright as they were when the UN was founded. Let us not squander away the chances of peace by repeatedly pinpointing the failures of the organisation. Dr Boutros Ghali has good reason to be optimistic. Our aim now, as the new peace agenda clarifies, should be to eliminate the sources of conflict through diplomacy and otherwise.

Mr C Sir, Mr B has evidently ignored the fact that in recent months, during 1991 and 1992, most of the peace-keeping moves made by the UN in various disturbed regions have ended in deadlock or turned out to be total failures, or are, as some political commentators put it, in "a state of crisis". UN funds are very limited; as a result, financially the world body is in a perpetual state of crisis. Even the world's most prosperous country, the USA, has been among the major defaulters in respect of the annual and other contributions to this body. Nor is there much hope that in respect of finances the UN position would greatly improve. The US may, under consistent pressure, pay a little more but the small Soviet republics and some other countries are themselves facing substantial financial problems. They are very unlikely to make large contributions for UN operations. The UN Secretary-General informed the Security Council a few weeks ago that unpaid dues of over 1000 million dollars to the regular and peace-keeping budgets of the world organisation had put it in an "extremely precarious spot". The total

in unpaid dues to the peace-keeping budget stands at 805 million dollars. Unpaid dues of this magnitude are certainly a continuous handicap. How can the UN function effectively in such a dismal context? The need is to curtail the operations and the bloated staff of the UN. There is no point in spending time and energy in drawing up ambitious programmes to expand UN operations worldwide. To complicate the situation, the cost of each UN operation, civil or military, has soared because of many factors, including the inflationary spiral. A good part of the UN funds are wasted when the personnel specially sent to the trouble-spots to reduce tensions receive rebuffs, as has happened in the break away units of Yugoslavia. Lack of both political and financial support in certain regions has made it difficult for the UN forces to perform their assigned duties. On top of it all comes the Secretary-General's new elaborate plan which calls for extension of the organisation's functions. In particular, Dr Boutros Ghali has proposed the establishment of a UN force to which various nations would contribute personnel and funds. This force, he said, would help maintain peace in the trouble-spots. The US has already rejected the plan for understandable reasons. President Bush would not like American soldiers to be commanded by officers of other countries. This is election year in the U.S.A. France has promised only a token force. Thus the prospects of the new UN agenda being accepted and implemented are dim. Why not rule it out straightaway?

Mr D It appears to me that Mr C is a distinct pessimist. We all know the various hurdles and difficulties in ensuring global peace. There would always be conflicts and tensions here and there. What the advocates of peace and well-wishers of humanity can, and

should, do is to pursue what is possible in order to ensure reduction of tensions and creation of an atmosphere conducive to harmony. Fortunately, one of the hurdles in UN functioning—the issue of State sovereignty—is likely to be gradually removed. There is a noticeable realisation that overall control and sovereignty of the State must not hinder international cooperation in the larger interests of humanity. There is also the growing conviction that if excessive emphasis is laid on the issue of ethnic origin or nationality, the international situation would assume more frightening dimensions. It is obvious that if every ethnic, religious or group claims statehood (this has happened in recent weeks in Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia in one form or another) there would be no limit to political fragmentation. Peace, security and social and economic welfare would in that eventuality become almost impossible to achieve. Moreover, even after the end of the Cold War the ambition of certain giants, especially the USA, to follow the policies of hegemony remains. The US Administration is jealous of countries like Japan and Germany making rapid all-round progress so as to match or even outbid North America. That is why the US authorities start enforcing sanctions in one form or another, or taking other disciplinary steps against any country that conducts experiments in missiles technology and registers good progress in scientific and technical fields. So far as I can see, the jealousies, animosities and tensions among various groups of people will continue for decades. The result is that the atmosphere for peace moves and other such campaigns is far from bright. It is all right to enunciate high-sounding principles and recall the directives enshrined in the U.N. Charter, but we should not be visionaries. Realism dictates a totally different course of action—total abandonment of rivalries and hostile moves.

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Dear Reader,

More Pages, More Features

All our readers will be happy to learn that, in pursuance of our policy of bearing their interests always in mind, we have decided to add eight more pages to every issue of the "C.M.". This has been done, of course at considerable cost to ourselves, in order to accommodate some more features. The demand for more and more features on various topics has been mounting and so we thought it would be best not to keep our patrons waiting any longer for the additional reading matter they eagerly look for. The new material in the magazine will include larger sections on Quantitative Aptitude and questions on General Awareness, Feature on Career, along with Quiz pages as often as possible.

We feel sure that our readers will heartily welcome and appreciate our gesture. The range of question papers in various competitive examinations has lately been widening and every test may prove crucial for success in career building. So it has become necessary for every aspirant to acquaint himself or herself with the latest developments in various fields of study.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the hearty response which our venture in publishing the "C.M." in Hindi also has elicited. In fact the response has exceeded our expectations and we had to print additional copies of the magazine to cope with the demand. Our efforts to introduce further improvement in our magazine will of course continue. Fulfilment of the readers' expectations gives us much satisfaction and spurs us to greater activity towards that end.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

S. P. Khanna

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READERS' FORUM

MUCH LABOUR, LITTLE GAIN

The very caption of your editorial "Much Labour, Little Gain" (Oct '92) is enough to suggest how successful the recent NAM summit at Jakarta was. The call for a North-South dialogue and the demand for restructuring of the U.N. was the highlight of the summit, but mere passage of resolutions will not do. We have had enough of them in the past.

Still, we are hoping against hope that some day sanity will dawn on the West and next to the U.N., NAM will be able to do something to ameliorate the sufferings of the mourning and groaning humanity across the world.

Anil Kumar
Muzaffarpur

I agree with your editorial titled "Much Labour, Little Gain" (Oct issue) about the Jakarta Summit of NAM, but since the Cold War is over and there is only one Super Power, i.e., the U.S., I think NAM could achieve something positive, as is claimed by many leaders, including our P.M., Mr Narasimha Rao. NAM's achievement at the Jakarta Summit is no way less important. Besides, Mr Narasimha Rao's emphatic condemnation of State sponsored terrorism was worthy of note.

P. K. Panigrahi
New Delhi

LANDMARK VERDICT

Your editorial "A Landmark Verdict" (Sept issue) is thought-provoking and deserves special attention.

The Supreme Court verdict, announced on July 30, is indeed a historic one. Charging whopping amount of money as capitation fee or "donation" by unscrupulous managements of certain colleges is tantamount to auction of education. The success of the "landmark" verdict

hinges on speedy reform of the system.

Jyotiranjana Biswal
Bhubaneswar

INDIA & PAK

Your well-written Special Feature-I "India, Pak & Simla Accord" (Oct issue), deserves appreciation.

Though the latest round of talks between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan made some headway in diffusing the crisis, the latter's abetment of terrorist activities in J & K and Punjab has not been halted.

It is high time Pakistan realised the gravity of the situation and gave up its quixotic habit of raising the Kashmir issue at the UN and demanding a plebiscite in J & K.

Md Shamsul Ansari
AF Str TKD

Twenty years have elapsed since the signing of the historic Simla Accord, but nothing significant has been achieved in the effort to find a solution of the Kashmir dispute. The problem is still alive and the situation is going from bad to worse. The Pakistan Foreign Secretary's statement that the commitment to the Simla accord did not mean any dilution of his country's adherence to the U.N. resolutions is unfortunate. Pakistan evidently does not realise the gravity of the situation and of its mistaken policy.

Navin Chandra
Patna

BUSH vs CLINTON

Your cover story "Bush vs Clinton" was topical and interesting. It will not be an exaggeration to say that the two contesting parties apart, the world at large has a stake in the outcome of the US poll. That Indians in the USA are still divided along religious and caste lines is a sad commentary on their postures.

You seem to have missed Mr Perot's real reason for withdrawal from the fray in

July. He had, during one of his speeches, referred to the blacks as "you people" and this, more than anything else, cost him dear. He has since re-joined the race.

Sgt Avinash
C/o 56 APC

Mr George Bush became popular among the Americans after the Gulf War. But what is most surprising is that, despite a decade of Republican rule he has not been able to win the confidence and trust of the voters. American industry suffered in the competition, reducing the standard of living and causing more unemployment. There was an increase in the tax burden.

Bhupen Bose
Calcutta

AXING THE BUREAUCRACY

With reference to the highly sensitive debate titled "Sharp Axe on Bureaucracy" (Sept '92 issue), I wish to say that the number of government officials in our country is indeed overwhelming. While some of the department and public sector undertakings have lately become redundant, it does not stand to reason that employment opportunities should be drastically reduced as an austerity measure to revamp the economy. I do not support the P.M.'s decision to slash the annual recruitment to the IAS from 110 to 80. It would certainly cause frustration among many civil aspirants. Such actions in the name of retrenchment may lead to large-scale unemployment in the long run. Non-technical graduates are bound to suffer the most.

The Central Government as well as the State governments should abolish incompetent and inefficient ministries which incur unnecessary expenditure. It is regrettable that superfluous portfolios are often created to accommodate more Ministers. How does one explain such expansion?

Jitu Changmai
Jorhat

OLYMPIC DEBACLE

India returned from the Barcelona Olympics without a medal. That was shameful. While a small country like

Morocco acquired a gold medal, India with a huge population of over 86 crore failed to bag even a bronze.

After each Olympics the whole country bursts into a wave of fruitless criticism. Such criticism comes to an end very soon and when another international event commences, the same cycle is repeated.

In India, there is no lack of talent. What we lack is scientific training, modern facilities and technical know-how. There is also lack of a sports culture in the country. Many parents think games and sports are a waste of time. They burden their children with more and more books. As far as employment is concerned, job insecurity prevents one from adopting games and sports as a career.

If India has to win medals, parents should change their basic attitudes. The Government must sponsor a Sports Revolution like the Green Revolution in some regions in India.

Kumar Mishra
Jamalpur

CM FEATURES

Thank you very much for your 'Personality Development' feature. The advice "Waste no time in regrets, start again" has changed my outlook and attitude. I shall be the gainer in future also. I believe that there are many readers who agree with me. The C.M. always fulfils the demands of readers.

Manik Ghosh
Nahati

Your magazine is growing more and more informative with every issue. It is immensely useful in the preparation for Banking Examinations; in fact for almost all the competitive examinations held nowadays.

Bijendra Kumar
Hazratnagar

May be you have recently appeared in any competitive examination.

We shall be grateful if you could send us the question papers. The original papers will be returned along with the postage spent by you.

Your gesture will be highly appreciated.

A Question of Decorum

DIGNITY and decorum should of course be important aspects of both private and public activity; if dignity is lost, there would be little left on the credit side. Treating another person, especially one who by virtue of his eminent position and high status, in an undignified manner is a reflection on one's own sense of propriety and decorum. This issue has acquired great relevance in the context of the recent conduct of some M.P.s and M.L.A.s who have flouted the rules of conduct in Parliament or a State Assembly and insulted the Head of State, the President of India or the Governor, by staging a walk-out or raising hostile slogans during the latter's formal address to the House.

The all-India conference of presiding officers of legislatures, held in New Delhi the other day, was therefore a timely bid to check the deterioration in the manners of legislators. Appropriately, a consensus was reached on the sanctity of the Address delivered by the President or the State Governor. For the first time in the 45 years that have passed since independence, a resolution was adopted at a meeting of this type declaring that no member of a political party should disturb or obstruct an address being delivered by the President of India or by a Governor to a joint sitting of Parliament or a State legislature. The participants agreed that nothing should be done to lower the dignity and prestige of the President or Governor on such occasions.

As a participant remarked, the President and the Governors symbolise the dignity of the nation and deserve the utmost respect. Unfortunately, the conduct of some over-enthusiastic legislators on such occasions leaves much to be desired. The general accord on behaviour during such addresses is therefore to be welcomed. How far the accord is implemented remains to be seen because (a) the small parties and groups have not accepted any such agreement, and (b) when the occasion comes for such addresses, restraint may still be found lacking among the legislators. Loss of temper and the trend to register a protest through slogans and walk-outs may persist. If they do, democracy, which postulates the highest regard for the executive head of State and

presiding officers of legislatures, will receive a distinct setback.

Actually, a full-fledged code of conduct for legislators was needed but this was precisely what the conference failed to evolve. Instead, the matter was left to the various political parties. But political parties have not been able to draw up and enforce a code of conduct for their members; in particular, the leaders have not been able to keep the over-zealous members in check. Every political party has dissidents who frequently defy directives and make nonsense of the rules. There have been cases of expulsion for indiscipline but this extreme step has not helped in keeping the rebels and disgruntled members in leash. Any step that would help ensure party discipline, especially inside the legislative chambers, would be heartily welcome.

In this connection, the recent decision to establish an institute for training legislators in the legislative business should be hailed. It is indeed strange that while every profession requires some training, that of a politicians and legislators should have wholly untrained and even ignorant people many of whom tend to exploit their privileged position to enrich themselves and oblige their pals, nephews and nieces. Trained legislators could be expected to conduct themselves in the manner expected of responsible representatives of the people. Those who contend that every legislator should be held responsible as well as accountable to his constituents do have a point. Such obligation might help introduce the sorely needed discipline in our body politic.

It is relevant to recall in this context what Jawaharlal Nehru said in a speech in Parliament on December 21, 1955. "Each member of Parliament", he said, "is not only a Member for this or that area of India but a member for India as a whole. He represents India and at no time can he afford to forget the basic fact that India is more than the little corner of the country he represents. Unparliamentary behaviour ill-befits an M.P. If this fact had been recognised, our legislators would not have brought ridicule upon themselves by behaving in an unbecoming manner in the sovereign legislature."

Human Rights & Police Excesses

The Union Government's decision to set up a Human Rights Commission will be welcomed by all sections of society. Amnesty International and Asia Watch have for years been urging the establishment of such a body to facilitate the protection of human rights in India. It is also to be noted that reports of police excesses and of custodial deaths have been pouring in. These deaths must be checked if this country's image is to be refurbished.

BASIC human rights have been repeatedly violated in India and several other countries, causing concern to leaders of enlightened public opinion. Under the Constitution, India stands committed to the principles of justice—social, political and economic. But in recent years the denial of basic rights to many people have justifiably attracted much adverse criticism of the administration.

Like the previous administrations, the present Government of India reiterated its determination to ensure full protection to the people against those who violate the laws of the land and are a party to the policies and processes adopted by misguided and overzealous functionaries, including the police and other security personnel. Deaths caused by police excesses such as torture are certainly abhorrent and should be speedily prevented.

Inaugurating a conference of Chief Ministers in Delhi on September 14 this year to consider the question of human rights, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao underlined the urgent need for the enactment of legislation for setting up a Human Rights Commission. The proposed commission will facilitate

the task of safeguarding and promoting human rights. One aspect of this question of deaths of suspects in police custody.

Admittedly, there can be nothing more revolting and reprehensible than the betrayal of custodial trust by the guardians of law and those appointed to protect individuals. The Prime Minister urged the authorities to deal such cases speedily and in an exemplary manner to ensure that the victims get positive and quick redress.

He appealed to the States to review their existing arrangements for monitoring cases of alleged human rights violation. Referring to the menace of terrorism in certain parts of the country, Mr Rao pointed out that we cannot allow a situation in which human rights are seen to be the preserve of the practitioners of terrorism and secessionism while those dealing with the menace courageously in extremely difficult circumstances are falsely condemned for violation of human rights.

The Government is conscious of its obligations in the matter. Even while dealing with terrorist and secessionist elements who are bent on killing innocent citizens with impunity and indulging in wanton death and destruction, our attempt, Mr Narasimha Rao said, must be not to use excessive force or to take recourse to unlawful or illegal means. The Centre has issued instructions repeatedly to give exemplary punishment to those who exceed their authority deliberately.

Action against Security Personnel: Even in the insurgency-affected

States of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, action (including imprisonment in a number of cases) has been taken against more than 230 officers and men of the security forces and investigations and prosecution are in progress against several others. But statistics are not important. What is important is that we should all be convinced that the steps taken reflect the commitment and sensitivity of the Government and of society at large to human rights.

If, despite all preventive measures taken by the Government, there is a feeling within the country or abroad that the Government is not serious about infringements of human rights, it is a matter of serious concern and needs to be dispelled with all emphasis at our command. The gaps between pronouncements and action, between legislation and its implementation have to be identified and steps taken to act firmly to bridge these gaps. In this context, there is need for reviewing the existing institutional arrangements and to see how they could be strengthened.

The establishment of a Human Rights Commission could be a step to bring into sharper focus the whole question of basic rights. Such a panel, independent of the Government and with transparency in its work, could go a long way in creating a sense of public confidence. Of course the role and functions of the Commission would have to be clearly demarcated. A Human Rights Commission would cut across various other institutions established under the Constitution and the law. It would be concerned intimately with areas of activity

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which are within the jurisdiction of the State governments.

Parliament and State legislatures in India are stated to be vigilant regarding human rights violations. The official claim is that this has helped immensely in creating public awareness of the matter, apart from ensuring that prompt action is taken against those guilty of committing such excesses. True, the country has an independent, vigilant Press which has always acted as a watchdog for the protection of individual rights and freedoms. Discussions on violations of human rights are primarily based on pronouncements on the judiciary and reports in the Press.

The Founding Fathers of the Indian Republic were very keen on making full provisions in the Constitution for ensuring all basic human rights to the people.

Constitutional Provisions: The chapter on Fundamental Rights in the Constitution is the most exhaustive as compared to corresponding provisions in the Constitutions of other countries. Rights, it has been stated by experts, are the groundwork of the State. They constitute the quality which imparts to them—and to the authority concerned—a moral character. These rights are essential for the good life, as essential as light and air, food and clothing are for human existence.

Man has struggled for his rights since the dawn of history against autocrats and tyrants. At numerous places he still continues to struggle not only for their due recognition but also to make them inviolable under all conditions so as to ensure full enjoyment of his liberty. The problem of democracy is, in every sense, a problem of liberty; the success or failure of a democratic government depends largely on the extent to which civil liberties are enjoyed by the people in general.

The Fundamental Rights are, in effect, a declaration of the fact that certain elementary rights of the individual must not be subject to the vagaries of the shifting legislative

majorities. The Rights provided in the Indian Constitution include the freedom of speech, religion, assembly, cultural and educational rights, equality before the law, etc. These privileges are binding on the Union Government, the State governments as also the local bodies. Of course absolute or unrestricted rights are not possible. But only reasonable restrictions as are in the interest of the common good are permissible.

According to the sponsors of the Francisco Conference which drew up the Charter of the United Nations after the end of World War II, one purpose of establishing the world organisation was to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for the fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion (Article I of the U.N. Charter).

The task of drawing up a declaration of general principles and a treaty containing binding obligations was entrusted to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The Declaration prepared by the Commission recognised both civil and political rights of the people. It is undeniable that States which do not recognise basic human rights or deny them to their citizens are, sooner or later, bound to find themselves heading towards political and social unrest. Conditions have to be created which allow for full development and unrestricted use of human intelligence and capabilities so that man should be able to satisfy his physical and spiritual needs and also seek fulfilment in other ways. Until this is ensured, strife and conflict will continue to smoulder, and lasting peace will remain a dream.

Amnesty and the Militants: Amnesty International—the London-based organisation which focusses attention on violations of human rights around the world—has been doing commendable work. However, its reports on the

state of human rights in India are often biased and based on incomplete reports. While it is true that there have been some violations of human rights in this country, by and large the Union Government's record in this respect is not one to be ashamed of, especially because of the difficult law and order situation in J & K, Punjab and Assam.

Lately, Amnesty International, in recognition of the complex factors and challenges in this country, has modified its tone.

While campaigning this year against alleged custodial violence in India, Amnesty International says it will also focus on violence by militants against innocent civilians in areas of insurgency, "We are going to make much more effort to actively pressurise the leadership, membership and supporters of (armed) opposition groups in the areas of insurgency in India", an Amnesty spokesman indicated.

Releasing an account of Indian authorities' "atrocities" on detainees, the spokesman acknowledged that the agency's reporting tended to be "lopsided" in so far as it does not have much information on terrorist violence. Amnesty intends to use "third country" approach in its campaign against police treatment of suspects in India, but it has stopped short of naming Pakistan as a possible target. The campaign, aimed mainly against Indian police and army atrocities, will probably employ the approach that involves asking a "third country" to influence insurgents in the country in question.

Amnesty recently decided to focus on abuses by armed opposition groups as well as the Government. "Our membership has said to us that in the coming two or three years you need to figure out a way of effectively acting against violations by opposition groups." The "opposition groups" mentioned in the report mean the militants and terrorists, not the legislators and other members of non-Congress parties in India.

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The functioning of India's Parliament at present is most unsatisfactory. Much time is wasted in scoring propaganda points by politicians. Important subject including the annual Budget, do not receive adequate attention. There is need to reform the system.

A plan for radical reorganisation of India's parliamentary system was announced on the last day of the Lok Sabha monsoon session this year. The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr P.R. Kumaramangalam, stated that from the next session, after the adoption by the Lok Sabha of the report of the Committee on Rules, Parliament would function according to the Committee System. The Rajya Sabha has already adopted the report which authorises the setting up of such committees.

This marks a major departure from the British conventions followed hitherto. The adoption, instead, of the American system of parliamentary functioning through House Committees promises to change the very nature of parliamentary democracy in India. The new system is intended to make Parliament "more effective and accountable".

The manner in which Parliament has functioned upto now, largely through debates and discussions carried out in the full House, has led to many important issues being denied full discussion on account of shortage of time. For instance, routinely for the last several years, the discussions on the budgetary demands of important ministries have been guillotined and closure has been applied to discussions on other vital matters also. This does not do justice to the parliamentary system of control over the administration.

Further, the usual low attendance during discussions on impor-

tant matters brings no credit to the elected representatives of the people. An alternative method which would be based on intensive parliamentary functioning, in addition to its overall extensive control, was urgently called for. Parliament has now responded to that need by agreeing to the setting up of committees to consider demands for grants of ministries and various bills, examine major and important policies, discuss annual reports of ministries and the reports on implementation of policies and deliberate on any other matter referred to a specific committee by the Speaker.

Parliamentary Committees: In India, as elsewhere, the work done by Parliament is varied in nature and considerable in volume. The time at its disposal is limited. It cannot, therefore, give close consideration to all the legislative and other matters that come up before it. So, a good deal of its business is transacted in the committees. Both Houses of Parliament have a similar committee structure, with a few exceptions. Their appointment, terms of office, functions and procedure for conducting their business, are also similar and are regulated under the provisions of the Rules made by the two Houses under Article 118(1) of the Constitution.

Broadly, Parliamentary Committees are of two kinds—Standing Committees and ad hoc committees. The former are elected or appointed every year, or periodically, and their work goes on, more or less, on a continuous basis. The latter are appointed on an ad hoc basis as need arises, and they cease to exist as soon as they complete the task assigned to them and have submitted their reports.

Among the Standing Committees, the three financial commit-

tees—the Committees on Estimates, Public Accounts and Public Undertakings—constitute a distinct group and they keep vigil over governmental spending and performance. While members of the Rajya Sabha are associated with the Committees on Public Accounts and Public Undertakings, the members of the Committee on Estimates are drawn entirely from the Lok Sabha.

The Estimates Committee reports on what economies, improvements in organisation, efficiency or administrative reform consistent with the policy underlying the estimates may be effected. It also examines whether the money is well laid out within the limits of the policy implied in the estimates and suggests the form in which estimates shall be presented to Parliament.

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tees examine and report on a fairly large area of the multitarious governmental activities at the Centre.

"Action Taken" Reports: The committees have adequate procedures to ensure that their recommendations are given due consideration by the Government. The progress in the implementation of the recommendations as well as any unresolved differences between the committees and the Government are set out in 'Action Taken Reports' which are presented to the House from time to time. It must be admitted that the follow up and implementation of various assurances are generally unsatisfactory.

Other Standing Committees in each House are: The Committee on Petitions examines petitions on Bills and on matters of general public interest and also entertains representations on matters concerning Central subjects. The Committee on Privileges examines any question of privilege referred to it by the House or the Speaker/Chairman. The Committee on Government Assurances keeps track of all the assurances, promises, undertakings, etc. given by Ministers in the House and is supposed to pursue them till they are implemented.

The Committee on Subordinate Legislation scrutinises and reports to the House whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules, bye-laws, etc., conferred by the Constitution or statutes, are being properly exercised by the authorities so authorised. The Committee on papers laid on the Table examines all the papers laid on the Table of the House by Ministers, other than statutory notifications and orders to see whether there has been compliance with the provisions of the Constitution Act, rule or regulation under which the paper has been laid. The Business Advisory Committee recommends the allocation of time for items of government and other business to be brought before the House.

The Committee on Absence of members from the sittings of the House of Lok Sabha considers all ap-

plications from members for leave of absence from the sittings of the House.

The Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, on which members from both Houses serve, considers all matters relating to the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which come within the purview of the Union Government and keeps a watch on whether the constitutional safeguards in respect of these classes are properly implemented.

Besides, there are the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of M.P.s, the Joint Committee on offices of profit which examines the composition and character of the committees and other bodies appointed by the Central and State governments and recommends what offices ought to disqualify a person for being chosen as a member of either House.

There are also some other committees, such as Select or Joint Committees on Bills. The procedure to be followed by them is laid down by the Lok Sabha Speaker or Chairman of the Upper House. Joint Parliamentary Committees are also appointed to go into specific matters. The latest examples are the JPC on the Bofors gun issue, and in August, 1992, of the Committee to probe the bank securities scam.

Flaws in Proposed System: The Parliamentary Rules Committee has recommended the setting up of 10 departmentally related Standing Committees. The proposal, if adopted, will have far-reaching consequences for the functioning of parliamentary government in India. The Opposition M.P.s have been pressing for this system since 1967. They held that the setting up of these committees, with powers to examine witnesses and call for papers, would help make responsible government a reality. The Congress Government, however, rejected this demand. It claimed that the innovation would result in Parliament's interference in matters which rightfully belong to the Executive. Instead, toothless Consultative Committees were estab-

lished. Over these the Ministers presided.

A beginning towards meeting the old demand had been made some years ago by establishing three subject Committees on agriculture, science and technology, and environment and forests. But other large areas of governmental activity remain outside the system of these Subject Committees. The new scheme of Standing Committees will cover the entire governmental activity.

The Standing Committees, it is proposed, should, *inter alia*, consider (i) the demands for grants of the concerned ministries and make a report to the Lok Sabha within a period of one month, (ii) such Bills or other matters pertaining to the concerned ministries as are referred to it by the Speaker.

The Committees are to be nominated by the Speaker and not elected. The chairman, too, is to be appointed by the Speaker. The term of office of members will be only one year. This is too short a period for M.P.s to function effectively. So the term should be extended to two years.

Under the proposal the House is to be adjourned after the general discussion on the budget for a month and it is during this recess that the committees will be doing their work. This means that there will be no sittings of Parliament, no Question Hour, no calling attention notices, and no discussion of Zero Hour miscellaneous notices and motions.

Besides, the existing staff of Parliament is neither adequate nor sufficiently trained to provide secretarial assistance and expertise to these committees. It is true that the committees can "avail of expert opinion" from outside. But this is no substitute for trained staff.

To sum up, the whole concept of functioning through committees is sound and practicable, but the success of the scheme will depend on the extent of independence they are permitted and the competence of the experts and assistants provided to them.

Chelliah Committee Report:

Restructuring Fiscal Management in India

The present Indian taxation System has been designed to achieve the twin objective of mobilising revenues and ensuring social justice in the society. Since independence various changes have been incorporated in the system in a piecemeal manner but no serious efforts had been made to revamp the entire fiscal management in such a manner to make it compatible with present day objectives of growth, investment and broadened tax base. The guiding principles in India's fiscal management have lacked orientation to these objectives. The tax collection and enforcement system has been marred with rampant corruption and in-built inefficiency. Indirect taxation system on the other hand is obsolete, ineffective and offers a lot of loop-holes to facilitate evasion. The revenue collection from taxes mainly banks upon excise and import duties. The tax-payers dread every budget apprehending additional tax doses as at present there is no long-term policy in this regard.

Realizing the above short comings in India's tax structure, the Govt of India appointed free-member high powered expert committee under the Chairmanship of Dr Raja J. Chelliah on August 29, 1991 to make recommendations for making the tax system elastic, broad-based and efficient. The Committee was also asked to suggest measures required for simplifying the existing laws and regulations to ensure better compliance and enforcement of taxes.

Interim Recommendations

THE Committee submitted its interim report in December 1991 and some of the recommendations were incorporated in the Union Budget for 1992-93 with minor amendments. The recommendations in the interim report for broadening the base of direct taxes included increasing the income tax exemption limit and scrapping of some of the

benefits given under Sections 80-CCA and 80-CCB of the Income Tax Act. The committee had also suggested withdrawal of concessions under Sections 35-CCA, 35-CCB and 35-AC for making donations to associations and institutions carrying out rural development or any project for promoting social and economic welfare. The committee further suggested keeping only three slabs in personal taxation and recommended the reduction in the maximum rate of personal income tax from 56% to 45%. This progressive element has been kept on the presumption that lower tax rates are much more rewarding than the higher ones. In addition, a new concept of presumptive tax on small traders and businessmen would certainly broaden the existing base of direct taxation. In the field of indirect taxes, the committee had recommended reduction of excise duty slabs to two or three and to bring services and

additional commodities within the extended excise system. The panel also recommended simplification of law and procedure pertaining to excise duties.

Final Report

THE final report was submitted by Chelliah Panel on August 25, 1992. The report, which is expected to form basis of Union Budget for 1993-94, has suggested wide-ranging measures to broaden the tax-base, and to revamp the entire system of indirect taxes. The committee has also incorporated many of the suggestions made by the World Bank in its report on fiscal policy of India.

One of the main recommendations is on corporate taxation. It was realised by the Committee that in India there is double taxation in the corporate sector, first at the corporate level and second at the time of payment of dividend. Further full integration of corporate taxation was

Terms of Reference

(a) Suggest ways of improving elasticity of revenues from both direct and indirect taxes and increasing the share of direct taxes as proportion of total tax revenues and the G.D.P.

(b) Suggest measures to make tax-system fairer and broad-based with necessary rate-adjustments in the field of commodity and personal taxation.

(c) Rationalise the system of direct taxes with a view to removing anomalies, improving equity and sustaining economic incentives.

(d) Identifying new areas of taxation.

(e) Suggest ways of improving compliance of direct taxes and

strengthening enforcement.

(f) Simplify and rationalise the customs tariff with a view to reducing the multiplicity and dispersion of taxes and to eliminate unnecessary exemptions.

(g) Suggest reduction in level of tariff rates keeping in view the need for mobilising resources to facilitate fiscal adjustment with the objective of improving international competitiveness.

(h) Simplify and rationalise the structure of excise duties for better tax compliance and administration.

(i) Recommend scope of extending the MODVAT Scheme

(j) Any other related or incidental matter.

fraught with insurmountable practical difficulties. To compensate the corporate sector for this double taxation, the Panel recommended reducing the upper limit of corporate tax from existing 51.75% to 45% in 1993-94 by abolishing of surcharge and to 40% by 1994-95. The reduced tax would directly increase the corporate profits thereby increasing the investible surplus in the hands of Companies. The proposal is also in consonance with the promise made by the Finance Minister to bring the Corporate taxation at par with other countries. The measure, on one hand, would attract more foreign capital and on the other, would make Indian Companies more competitive for export promotion as well as for import substitution.

Connected with the Corporate tax is the suggestion regarding depreciation allowance. With the reduced Corporate tax, the Panel has suggested that it is reasonable to maintain the depreciation allowance at the present level of 25%. The rate of 33.3% suggested by Economic Administration Reforms Commission (EARC), did not find favour with the Committee, as the rate of 25% depreciation allowance would help a business enterprise to recoup the total cost of asset within a period of about 5.5 years.

A landmark recommendations pertaining to direct taxes is the suggestion to tax the agricultural income of non-agriculturists exceeding Rs 25,000. The issue of agricultural taxation is very sensitive and has been debated upon at various levels. Till now no government had the political courage to venture into this area of taxation. Recommendations of Chelliah Panel in this regard are a welcome step. This would increase the tax revenues of the government by broadening the tax base and will go a long way in plugging a major loophole in the Income Tax Act. As expected this recommendation has attracted sharp criticism from a particular section of society including the Union Agriculture Minister Mr Balram Jakhar. But then, there is another school of thought which believes that the suggestion would

not broaden the tax base to the desired extent and rather than confining to non-agriculturists, the Committee should have included all rich farmers within the ambit of this recommendation.

In addition, a host of recommendations have been made in the direct taxes to cover the aspects of problems relating to tax, grievance redressal, tax-payers' education, problems of administration, summary assessments, scrutiny assessment, tax payers' information system, procedures, prosecution and internal matters pertaining to appointment and promotion of the officers of income tax. The Panel has specifically dealt with the aspect of inherent corruption and has recommended a variety of measures to counter the corrupt practices and public harassment. The Committee has recommended that instead of resorting to excessive raids and seizures, the information system should be strengthened. It has further recommended that the present system of allotting Permanent Account Numbers (PAN) to the income tax payers should be replaced by Tax Payers' Identification number (TIN) system. Every trader/businessman registered in towns and cities and all taxi/bus/truck owners must be given a TIN so that tax payment compliance is ensured and the tax base is widened considerably.

A very important and pragmatic recommendation has been made in respect of indirect taxation. Acknowledging the superiority of Value Added Tax (VAT) over indirect tax system, the VAT has been recommended to substitute present system. VAT has the advantage of minimising the administrative delays and interferences, is simple in administration and is difficult to evade. Moreover, VAT ensures that there is no double taxation, thereby ruling out the possibility of escalation of prices on this account. Such a system has extended tax coverage and it needs lesser enforcement machinery. Though the Committee has not explicitly recommended abolition of the Sales tax by the States, yet the concept of VAT can

be stretched to that extent. If such a decision is taken by the government, the matter may have to be referred to the Finance Commission as it would then need a different formula for sharing of VAT proceeds. But if the VAT rates are to be brought down to the recommended level of 10 to 20%, the tax base would need further widening for achieving the desired level of tax revenue earnings.

Chelliah Panel Report is thus a land-mark in the field of tax-reforms in India. Wide-ranging recommendations have been made to revamp the income tax, excise and custom duties. The committee has not confined itself to recommend revamping of the tax-structure only, but has made recommendations covering the entire fiscal management in the country. Some significant suggestions have been made to plug the loopholes in the tax enforcement and compliance, to reduce the rampant corrupt practices in these departments and to cleanse the overall administration in the tax departments. A very bold and significant recommendation is that political interference in postings on so-called 'lucrative' posts must be stopped forthwith and the officers with proven honesty should be posted on such posts. The committee's recommendation that tax departmental heads should discretely prepare a list of corrupt officers and take desired action against them is also laudable.

Chelliah Committee recommendations, are in conformity with the new-economic policy of liberalisation, encouraging private investment and attracting more foreign investment and will supplement the economic reforms of the Government. Unlike most of other reports submitted by various Panels and Committees, it appears that this particular report will not lick dust in official corridors. Most of the provisions of this report are likely to form basis of restructuring of the tax-system in the Union budget for 1993-94.

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Author's Bio-Data

•B E, BITS Pitani. M Tech, IIT Kharagpur. NTS scholar. Rank 5 in High School Raj Board.

•World-famous author. Published 3 books in USA including best selling book "Tricks of MS-DOS Masters", 721 pages, \$27.95.

•Increased my reading speed from 72 words to as fast as 1037 words per minute.

•First engineering job paid only Rs 1000 per MONTH. Finally, earned \$50 (Rs 1500) per HOUR in USA as computer expert and writer.

•At the peak of success, I left USA & returned to India to share my mind power study techniques.

•Expert in computers, mind power, and study techniques. Was a member of the Society for Accelerated Learning & Teaching, USA.

•Learnt French, Sanskrit, Karate, Breaking wooden board, many Meditations etc.

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Equality of Opportunity Exists Only in Official Documents

(This topic was asked in the AAOHIC Examination 1992)

No democracy can exist for long in the midst of want and poverty and inequality

Jawaharlal Nehru

THE Constitution of India guarantees equality of status and opportunity to all. Undoubtedly we have one of the finest Constitutions in the world that promises to carry out the pledges held out to millions and millions crying for social justice, equality of opportunity and rule of law. But still we are in such a mess that is getting more and more murky.

With nearly thirty per cent population living below the poverty line and roughly fifty per cent of the world's illiterates sweating and sweating in fields and factories of India, we are a veritable land of bloated bellies and begging bowls. Even after more than four decades of independence, we are living to face the dilemma of despair and dreams, hate and hopes, fears and freedom. The privileged ones can get things done through their connections but ordinary mortals only get cross connections. The socio-political-economic scene in India is like a theatre which is all screams and wild gestures.

From Ayadi (Socialistic Pattern of Society) to Mandal Commission, the goal of achieving a meaningful socio-economic equality and egalitarianism has remained a wild goose chase notwithstanding the occasional reverberation of high-sounding resolutions and manifestoes. The ground realities throw back a sordid scar on the fair name of India where the equality of opportunity has been blatantly denied to child labour, to bonded labour, to women, and to 'unorganised labour'. The objective of 'equality of opportunity' for

all irrespective of their social, ethnic or linguistic composition, continues to elude us like a distant dream. The narrowing gap between words and deeds and the presence of hydra-headed monster of irksome inequalities and abounding atrocities on weaker sections stare us in the face to remind us every now and then that despite pious intentions of the Founding Fathers of the Indian Constitution the country is still caught in the intractable contradiction of plentiful written documents and little action on the front of dispensing equality of opportunity to all.

On paper all policies look excellent. But without proper implementation, without a cadre committed to their honest translation into concrete action, not much can be achieved. In black and white promises, programmes and plans appear attractive and make a good reading material. Many a time they are stirring and stimulating but it is their practical shape that only can bring about any perceptible revolution in human lives.

In official documents all are equal but in reality some are more equal. Equality of opportunity in the field of education, primary as well as higher, has been observed more in its violation than in its execution. The charging of Capitation Fee, (since declared *ultra vires* by the Supreme Court) by Engineering/Medical Colleges in some States is an open affront to the concept of equal opportunity to all in matters of education.

'Equality before law' is another myth that has become hollow from inside and a constant harassment from outside. In the courts of law, it is neither equality nor law that holds sway for most people because of moribund delay and highly expensive dispensation of justice. Despite some

heroic efforts of conscientious social workers and voluntary organisations that have gone in for 'Public Interest Litigation', the face of justice is seldom visible. Hundreds of detenus/under trials have been languishing in jails for years to see the mystery of rule of law explode before their very eyes and still no eyebrows are being raised in sympathy with their pitiable plight. Meanwhile well worded documents on 'cheap and speedy justice' have joined the silent army of files in the archives and libraries. With money, muscle and mafia power ruling the roost, even politics has become the private preserve of a new feudal class. This development over the years goes against the letter and spirit of the Constitution which lays down that contesting elections should be within the reach of all eligible Indian nationals. Even Reservations for certain categories of people, have helped only a few and ironically enough given rise to another elite group within those down trodden segments of population.

The wider the gap between the haves and have nots, the intenser is the frustration among the latter and more frequent is the occurrence of class conflicts. Denial of equal opportunities to all is not only a gross violation of fundamental human rights but also an invitation to the menace of militancy and secessionism. The need of the hour is not another plethora of written deliberations and decisions on "Equal Opportunity" but a head-long plunge into the arena of action. The writing on the wall is too clear to be ignored any longer. The cup of people's patience is already full to the brim and it can no longer digest any further dose of dereliction of duty on the part of 'Powers that be'.

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Corruption in the Judiciary

Urgent Need of Correctives

Of the three vital organs of governmental machinery—the executive, the legislature and the judiciary—the last one is by far the most important. It is the guardian of the people's rights; in fact the welfare of citizens greatly depends on speedy and impartial justice. There is a growing belief that the Indian judicial set-up is becoming tainted with cases of corruption and similar malpractices. This feature highlights the vital role of the judiciary in a democratic State.

I. Introduction

LORD Bryce, the famous British jurist and political scientist, aptly said that there is no better test of the excellence of a government than the efficiency of the judicial system. In fact the judiciary is supposed to be an effective guardian of the rights of the people. Courts are agencies for deciding disputes between individuals and between them and the State and also awards punishment to those found guilty of crime.

With the emergence of the Welfare State the role of the judiciary has become arduous. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the judiciary should always command a reputation for integrity and impartiality of the highest order. It bodes ill for the future of any democracy when doubts are expressed about the probity and integrity of individual judges. Such incidents bring the entire judiciary into disrepute and tend to shake the people's confidence in the country's judicial set-up.

This is precisely what has been happening in India in recent months. The credibility of the legislature and the executive at present is not high; both these organs are known to be weak, inefficient and ineffective. At

this crucial juncture the citizens can look only to the judiciary for upholding their rights and privileges and thus redress their grievances. It is all the more unfortunate that there should be doubts about the moral and ethical standards of some judges. The Indian judiciary is described by some critics as "corrupt" and also at times partial. Many people tend to believe that the allegations against some of the judges of the High Court and even the Supreme Court are not entirely baseless. These complaints, it is argued, arise from several instances.

II. Concrete Cases

SEVERAL months ago there were certain allegations against two judges of the Bombay High Court; following these the cases they were hearing were transferred to other judges. In December, 1990, a well-known judge of the Delhi High Court held that the investigation into the Bofors kickbacks case was "biased and influenced by outside agencies". He cited a list of supposed "illegalities" in the procedures before the Special Court hearing the case. He quashed the FIR, which was bound to affect the proceedings before the Swiss Courts.

The Supreme Court intervened and struck down the order recently. Passing severe strictures on the judge, the Supreme Court said that their judicial conscience was shocked over the judge's remarks on the FIR. What shocked the country in the order was the brazen manner in which the judicial process was subverted, presumably to serve political ends. It appeared as if the judiciary had become a handmaiden of some top political leaders who had

vested interests in scuttling the Bofors case. Some of the decisions of the concerned Delhi High Court judge make a mockery of the Rule of Law, according to a leading commentator.

Some weeks earlier, Mr Veerasami, the then Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, was accused of possessing properties disproportionate to his known sources of income. Criminal proceedings were launched against him. Mr Veerasami claimed constitutional protection against criminal prosecution as he was the Chief Justice then. He challenged the launching of criminal proceeding unsuccessfully, first in the Madras High Court and later in the Supreme Court which held that prosecution could be launched in the case. The former Chief Justice managed to stall proceedings for over a decade. He certainly conducted himself in a strange manner, unbecoming of a senior High Court judge.

Then there is the case of Mr V. Ramaswami, who is a sitting judge of the Supreme Court and is alleged to have committed serious financial irregularities running into lakhs of rupees when he was Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The auditors objected to certain purchases and other expenditure incurred by Mr Ramaswami.

The then Chief Justice of India, Mr Sabyasachi Mukherjee, advised Justice Ramaswami to abstain from discharging his functions until the allegations against him were cleared. A committee of three Supreme Court judges was constituted by the Chief Justice of India to go into the matter. Mr Ramaswami refused to acknow-

ledge the jurisdiction of any committee to sit in judgement over his conduct. The committee could not establish any of the charges because of his non-participation in the probe.

In February, 1991, as many as 108 members of the Lok Sabha presented a motion to the Speaker for removal of the judge. The motion was admitted and a committee under the Judges Inquiry Act, 1968, was constituted to examine the allegations. Mr Ramaswami tried repeatedly to stall the proceedings by resorting to litigation. He continues to function as a judge of the Supreme Court.

The fact that, apart from impeachment, which is a political act (considering that the Government has to move a motion in this regard and obtain a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting in both Houses of Parliament) there is no authority which can take action against an erring judge under the existing system.

The guilty judges are a symptom of the deeper malaise that has lately affected the Indian judiciary. It would be too simplistic to say that merely weeding out the black sheep would solve the problem. After all, these are not mere aberrations but are characteristic of the rot that has apparently been institutionalised in the judiciary. From appointments to promotions to day-to-day functioning of judicial officers, nothing seems to be above board. Judicial appointments are made on considerations regardless of merit, social commitment and personal integrity.

It suited the executive in the past, and suits it even now, to pack the judiciary with pliant men who would be amenable to influence and corruption. The trend was started by the late Mrs Indira Gandhi. "Packing the judiciary", as it is called, has become an effective method of subverting the goal of an independent judiciary.

III. Appointment of Judges

ONE of the possible factors that explain the prevalence of irregularities and malpractices by the

judges is the method of their selection and appointment. If proper care is not exercised by the appointing authority right at the commencement of the process, occasions for regretting the choice may arise in due course but then it may be too late to rectify the error. In any case, removal of judges is a lengthy and cumbersome process.

There are three methods of appointing judges: (1) Election by the legislature, (2) election by the people, and (3) appointment by the Executive. Election of judges by the legislature is very uncommon and this method was discarded long ago by the few countries which had adopted it. This system grossly violates the principle of separation of powers. Besides, it places the judiciary at the mercy of the legislature, which is very improper and strikes at the root of the concept of judicial independence. Election of judges by the legislature inevitably leads to party candidates. It discounts merit and introduces, instead, politics in the process. Fairness and impartiality, so essential for an independent judiciary, are virtually ruled out in this method.

Election of judges by the people was first introduced in France in accordance with the theory of popular sovereignty. It now prevails in some cantons of Switzerland and in a few States of the U.S.A. But viewed from any angle, this method is no less objectionable than election of judges by the legislature. Harold Laski, the famous British political scientist, described this method as "the worst"

Unquestionably, popularly elected judges, especially those who intend to seek re-election after a short period, (say two or three years) can never be impartial, honest and independent. They have to cater to popular wishes and have to play to the gallery like politicians and most members of a legislature. Decisions in legal cases would not be taken in such cases on merit but just to please one section of the people or another. We would then have politicians as judges. The whole system would in fact collapse and be full of basic con-

traditions.

So, appointment of judges by the Executive is the best available method. No wonder it has been adopted by nearly all countries of the world. Of course the Executive has to take full care to ensure that only the honest, capable people are selected so that they may not fall victims to temptations and allurements. They have to be well paid so that they may not be inclined to accept gifts or make money on the sly. In a society where corruption is fairly common, there is no dearth of people who would be ready to offer substantial sums of money and offer jobs to sons or other relations of judges, in order to get the desired judicial verdict on which may depend their future. Unfortunately, some judges do fall victims to such temptations. It is the weakness for favours such as fruitful careers for their children and material comforts for themselves and their families that has brought discredit to the judiciary in some cases.

In India the recruitment to the subordinate courts is done through competitive examinations, but in the case of appointments of judges of higher court, the selection is made in accordance with the method prescribed in the Constitution, though the formal appointing authority is the President.

Article 124(2) states that every judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal, after consultation with such of the judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose and shall hold office until he attains the age of superannuation. Certain qualifications are prescribed for appointment as judges.

IV. Removal of Judges

IN all countries some provision is made in the Constitution for removal of corrupt and inefficient judges. But which is the final authority to decide who is corrupt or otherwise unfit to hold the distinguished office of a High Court or Supreme Court judge? This question

has come up in recent months in India because of the cases of corruption and other malpractices. The process of removal has necessarily to be difficult so as to prevent the abuse of power and capricious actions. Everyone agrees that if the tenure of a judge is to depend on the pleasure of a particular person or agency, independence or impartiality of a judge cannot be ensured.

In Britain a judge can be removed by the King or Queen on a joint address by Parliament indicting him for corruption or moral turpitude. In the U.S.A. the judges of the Supreme Court can be removed by impeachment. The House of Representatives draws up the charges and the trial is held by the Senate. In India, before the attainment of Independence some judges were removed from office by the Crown for misbehaviour or infirmity on a report by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

In countries where the system of recall prevails, the integrity and independence of the judiciary has deteriorated; according to some observers, the judges there have become the playthings of the people and of politics.

Article 124 (1) (B) of the Indian Constitution states that a judge may be removed from his office in the manner provided in Clause (4) which states that "a judge of the Supreme Court shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament, supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting, has been presented to the President for such removal on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.... It needs to be noted that, according to the verdict in the case *Daphtary versus Gupta*, 1971, gross error of judgement is not regarded as "misbehaviour".

V. Independence Vital

A judge is described as a blind-folded person who holds the scales of justice, which he ad-

ministers even handed. Since ancient times much sanctity is attached with the office of a judge. The laws in a democratic State are generally sound and based on ethics and a sense of justice between man and man. But unless the laws are applied and interpreted by an upright, fully honest and impartial authority, the people cannot be sure of getting justice.

To ensure justice it is necessary that the judges should be men (and women) of keen intellect, high legal ability and independence of judgement. If they lack integrity, probity and freedom of decision, the aim of establishing an independent judiciary cannot be achieved. It was rightly said by Bacon that there is no worse torture than the torture of laws. The independence of the judiciary implies that the judges should exercise unfettered discretion in the interpretation of laws and administration of justice. They should throughout remain uninfluenced by extraneous considerations in the discharge of their duties.

There is no doubt that the maintenance of the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, in both letter and spirit, is the basic condition of the operation of the Rule of Law. An independent judiciary is indispensable for popular governments, even those which are autocratic and authoritarian. It is such a judiciary that can protect the people against the arbitrary decisions and oppression of people. In this process it is vital to protect the minorities against the tyranny of the majority. It is obvious that the judges must do everything possible to create confidence among the people in the fairness and impartiality of the judiciary.

In recent weeks, well-informed Indian commentators, bearing in mind the cases of irregularities, including extravagance and suspected bribery, have posed the question: How can there be justice and fair play in a country when those who, entrusted with the high responsibilities of High Court or Supreme Court judges, are themselves not above board and do not have a clean slate. A few such judges have turned

out to be obstinate and irresponsible, and also impervious to the adverse opinion of their own colleagues, not to speak of the frequent criticism in some top category newspapers which cannot be accused of prejudice or malice. These dignitaries seem to be in no mood to get their image refurbished and the cloud enveloping them cleared.

Arrears Delayed justice: In this country delays in the disposal of the general public's cases, including urgent pleas for action and redress of complaints, are a major cause of corruption; hence the expressions "speed money" and "palm greasing" to expedite disposal. The possibility of money-bags playing a role in getting expeditious justice even when there are lakhs of pending cases cannot be ruled out. A couple of years ago there was much public criticism of the Supreme Court's action in promptly hearing certain petitions filed by rich industrialists and other affluent persons while similar pleas by many others were kept pending. That led to the accusation that speedy justice was only for the rich.

According to a report, in India over three lakh criminal cases have been pending for over eight years. In Maharashtra alone, over 1,80,000 criminal cases have been pending for eight years. Every year about eight lakh criminal cases are filed for trial but only 1.5 lakh cases are disposed of. The rest are added to a bulging backlog. It is estimated that about a crore criminal cases are pending in courts in the country today. All this has an aggravating multiplier impact on both the law and order and crime situations. There is obvious need for total and quick change in the police, in the judiciary, in the system of prosecution, in the correctional system and most importantly, in the laws.

VI. Judicial Accountability

IN the context of the erosion of the judiciary's credibility, several jurists, lawyers and intellectuals, assembled at a convention in New Delhi on July 25, 1992, expressed the view that corruption was creeping

into the higher courts. In the lower courts it is believed to be far greater. These eminent persons urged the appointment of a National Judicial Commission to probe corruption cases and ensure judicial accountability.

The proposed Judicial Commission should be independent of the executive and the judiciary. It should be empowered to investigate complaints against judges, and pronounce on them. The former Law Minister, Mr Shanti Bhushan, suggested that the permanent body should consist of the Chief Justice of India and the nominees of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. This body should also have an efficient investigative machinery at its disposal through which it could have these complaints investigated. In order to ensure that errant judges are swiftly dealt with, judicial review of the findings of such a body must be excluded.

In his inaugural speech at the convention, Mr A.N. Grover, former judge of the Supreme Court, said the erosion in credibility was due to the steeply declining standards of rectitude and integrity among judges of the higher judiciary. According to him, the judges were not being appointed on merit but on political and extra-judicial considerations.

The eminent jurist, Mr V.M. Tarkunde, and Mr H.R. Khanna, former Supreme Court judge, felt that another reason for the decline in standards was the lack of an effective mechanism for holding judges of the higher judiciary accountable for their conduct. The system of impeachment provided in the Constitution as the only means to hold judges accountable, had failed to serve the purpose. The case of Justice V. Ramaswami is the only case where impeachment has been initiated. This shows how cumbersome, lengthy and ineffective the whole process is.

A glaring defect in the present system, they felt, is the lack of

machinery by which complaints against judges could be investigated without first having an impeachment motion containing definite charges against the judges, signed by more than 100 Lok Sabha and 50 Rajya Sabha MPs. Another defect is that even after a judge is proved guilty of misbehaviour by a high-powered enquiry committee of three judges, he could still continue to sit on the Bench until a motion for his removal was passed by a two-thirds majority of both Houses of Parliament.

The present system of impeachment should be replaced by a system in which credible complaints against judges could be swiftly and effectively investigated and pronounced upon by an independent Judicial Commission. A former Supreme Court judge has expressed the view that there was urgent need to tackle corruption at the lower levels. Members of the bar, it is contended, corrupt the judges. We must go into the root cause. The convention passed a resolution to call upon Parliament to set in motion the process by which suitable amendments can be made in the Constitution and the laws to make the higher judiciary effectively accountable to the people.

Care however should be taken to see that no harm is done to judges with a track record of honesty and integrity. In the U.S.A. the judiciary is accountable to the judiciary alone; it has various judicial councils. There should be Supreme Court and High Court councils but only those with a clean record of integrity should be chosen to serve on these councils.

It is also desirable that sub-committees on judicial accountability be created in each State. The sub-committees could take steps to mobilise public opinion for bringing about changes. It has been rightly pointed out that the judgements should be in simple language. Moreover, the practice of delivering judgements several months after the completion of hearings should be discarded.

The best safeguards for maintaining the highest standards in the judiciary should come from within

The judiciary cannot be totally insulated from the prevailing atmosphere in the country which is far from conducive to honesty, independence and impartiality.

VII. The Kin Factor

WHILE some judges are accused of running "shops" and minting money by allowing their kinsmen, including sons, sons-in-law and nephews, to practise in their courts, others suspect there is favouritism on other counts also. The apparent presumption is that those clients who engage lawyers related to the judges before whom the cases are likely to be heard, are assured favourable verdicts. This has further shaken public confidence in the impartiality of the judiciary at many centres.

But in this connection the recent judgement of the Punjab and Haryana High Court needs to be noted. The Court dismissed a writ petition demanding transfer to some other High Court of such judges as have relations practising in the same courts. The High Court observed at one point during the hearing of the petition that judges "cannot be hanged merely because some of their relations are practising in the same court". It is unfair on the part of the persons concerned to contend that a judge becomes suspect in respect of his or her impartiality just because a relation has argued a case before him or her.

Surely, the judges in such cases would be doubly careful that no aspersions of favouritism are cast on them of showing favours to certain people. The suspicion however persists. It is difficult to prove that a favourable judgement has been delivered in a particular case because it was argued by a lawyer who was related to the presiding judge. It is generally not possible to know before hand to which judge his case will be referred (unless of course the lawyers concerned wangle things in a certain manner, through bribery or influence). Besides, there may be an understanding between some judges. But the argument runs both ways. Such cases may in fact be test cases of

the impartiality of the judge concerned.

Neglect of judiciary: In view of the fact that the conditions under which some of the courts function are far from satisfactory and these constitute a factor that causes inefficiency and worse, the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court complained in September this year that the Government was neglecting the judiciary in Bihar, in particular. He did not know whether the Government was doing this deliberately or whether it was just indifferent to the manner in which justice was being administered. The Chief Justice, censuring the State Government, said perhaps the Government thought the creation of more districts and subdivisions was more important. In U.P. the judges worked in darkness because of frequent power cuts.

In May this year members of the Bar Association of India, assembled at a symposium organised by the Association, sought the revival of the 67th amendment of the Constitution for the formation of a national judicial commission. The proposal seems to have been forgotten. Subsequent governments ignored or bypassed the plea. While some persons argued that the formation of the commission would in effect mean transfer of the power of appointing judges from the Executive to the Judiciary, others were of the opinion that this would ensure more public scrutiny of judges on the pattern of the system prevalent in the USA. Such scrutiny has proved useful and served the interests of the people, including the litigants.

Lawyers' Academy: Realising that (a) there is growing corruption in the lower ranks of the judiciary, (b) there is incompetence in meeting out justice in most of the lower courts, and (c) the lawyers and judicial officers also needed training so that the entire judicial machinery may function smoothly, the Union Law Ministry has approved a plan to set up a lawyers' academy on a national scale on the lines of the Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy for training IAS officers at Mussoorie. The

proposed academy will be an autonomous body to be registered under the Societies Registration Act.

It had also been found that there was no uniformity in the calibre of a large number of District Judges and subordinate judicial officers in the country. Besides, experts have discovered that in numerous cases the judicial officers' understanding of the law is not up to the requisite standard, with many not even being able to write a judgement correctly. No wonder the language used in verdict is often faulty. The new institution will provide both in-service and pre-service training. Judicial officers would be enabled by the new academy to upgrade their skill. A committee is to be set up under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice of India and including two seniormost judges of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, the chairman of the Law Commission, two law professors, some officials of the Legal Affairs, Finance Ministry, Personnel and Training Departments. The Registrar-General of India's Supreme Court will be the convenor.

VIII. Redundant Laws

YET another factor responsible for the deterioration in the quality and functioning of the judiciary was brought to light at a seminar on "The Indian Judicial System—its Difficulties", held in Delhi in the third week of September this year. The general view of the participants was that the Indian judicial system has languished and the rich have been able to abuse the various processes of law with impunity. Even after over four decades of the working of the Constitution, no fresh look has been taken at the laws being enforced by the various courts. Most of the laws, enacted many years ago, have become redundant; they are socially undesirable and constitutionally unworkable. So an effective review and revision were needed.

A highly significant admission came from Mr H.R. Bhardwaj, the Union Law Minister himself. The judicial system was dying a slow death and needed to be toned up at the earliest. The Minister said the judicial and legal set-up was not providing cheap justice to the poor. Rather it had increasingly become subservient to the rich. However, he advocated full autonomy to the system in view of the number of constraints, particularly financial, which obstructed the disposal of cases. For ensuring financial independence and well-being of the subordinate courts, the Law Minister suggested that a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the various States be convened.

According to the Minister, the High Courts were suffering from inefficiency and various other ailments which were leading to the piling up of cases. Lack of proper court buildings, inadequate provision of accommodation for the judges, particularly at the district headquarters, and of other infrastructure such as chambers for the lawyers, are major problems. At least some of these problems may be contributing to the deterioration in standards or even leading to corrupt practices. Private parties providing good accommodation to the needy judges may be expecting some return in the form of favourable judgements in certain cases.

It was also pointed out that the judicial system at present was not poised to meet eventualities such as the recent securities scam in which Harshad Mehta of Bombay played a notable part. Another point that has been rightly stressed is that the service conditions of the judges and the subordinate judiciary had to be taken into account in order to ensure that justice was ensured in all cases. The Patna Chief Justice admitted that he had no say in financial matters of the courts and could not improve the lot of the court staff which was an integral part in the deliverance of speedy justice. By implication, substandard conditions may cause corruption.

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MODEL PARAGRAPHS

"Blessed is he who has found his work; let him ask no other blessedness."

—Thomas Carlyle

'Work is worship'. There is no gainsaying the fact that 'work ethics' and 'work culture' are at the root of dignified development and personal pride. Indeed blessed are those who have found work of their choice. Therein lies the fulfilment of one's passion and pursuit if the work is satisfying and stimulating. Anyone in search of self-expression in something other than work is bound to be disappointed. There is no better intoxicant than the 'sweat of work' that one performs. Some people curse their stars for not finding work to their liking and thus suffer in abject agony. Such persons are to be pitied because they are the victims of self-deception. What matters the most in life is the work that keeps us away from the devil for an 'idle man's brain is the devil's workshop'. Work is the key to success and success is the touchstone upon which a man's status and stature are measured. Blissful is he whom God has assigned some work to do and fortunate is he who dies in harness.

"The earth is the honey of all beings; all beings are the honey of this earth."

—Upanishad

The life, in all its manifestations, sucks its sustenance from the earth. All beings, in whatever fortune and form, appear on this planet to receive their share of honey (sweetness) from the fragrant flowers, bouncing brooks and majestic mountains. The gifts of nature are so scattered on this earth that all beings need patience and perseverance to sweeten the 'cup of

life' and transform every challenge into an opportunity. The mother earth always wishes that its offspring should be fed with the honey of 'mellowed fruitfulness', and the manna (God's food) of sweet sights and sounds. If all beings ought to be grateful to this earth for such a treasure-trove of wealth, both visible and hidden, the earth should also feel elated and exalted that its surface has been made beautiful by the bubbling and blooming life of flora and fauna, human beings and their siblings. Hence both the earth and all its beings are an inexhaustible source of honey (nectar) for each other because both stand for God's plenty and perpetuity.

"Pessimism, when you get used to it, is just as agreeable as optimism."

—Arnold Bennett

Anything that appeals to our sensibilities as a matter of routine and repetition, gets so ingrained in our psyche that we seldom realise we have become slaves of that addiction. Even sugar can turn poisonous if it is taken thoughtlessly every now and then. Similarly attitudes towards life, people and events, if allowed to move on a single track without questioning, are likely to possess our faculties in such a way that we may become 'dumb driven donkeys' pushed by the force of habit without ever knowing where the pits lie ahead. A person who always looks at the dark side of happenings and allows himself to be taken for a ride by the forces of pessimism is lost both to himself and to the world at large. Such persons as are given to seeing only dark patches on the sky or empty portions of half-filled glasses, get so used to enjoying their perverse state of mind that pes-

simism starts looking as agreeable and enjoyable as optimism. To some their saddest thoughts provide moments of excitement and exuberance and no amount of silver lining surrounding the dark clouds of their mental horizon can pull them back on the normal course where morbid existence is considered to be an aberration and not an ideal. No doubt, once we are used to a particular flavour/stink of our mental movements, we start enjoying them, no matter how detrimental and deadly they may prove to be.

"The highest proof of virtue is to possess boundless power without abusing it."

—Lord Macqulay

'Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely' is an oft-quoted axiom, that has witnessed the rise and fall of many a powerful ruler. But the virtuous are those who, despite their vast self and power, do not fail to see the writings on the wall and thus avoid the wrath of gods, who punish the perpetrators of misery and mire on the helpless masses. The use of power for the good of mankind, brings cheers and smiles all around. It is tempting to abuse any gift, natural or acquired, but to make it an instrument of service and salvation promotes self-satisfaction as well as self-glorification. The test of human character and its vigorous vitality lie not in its high-handedness but in the display of humility and humanism. The best prayer of God is the one that encourages in us the belief to abjure the use of force for self-aggrandisement. Virtues lie not in acquiring more muscle, material or monetary power but in getting rid of them.

ECONOMIC SCENE

Population Control Measures

Q. "The measures taken by the Government of India to control population growth rate have failed to achieve their objective and a new look at the programme is needed." Discuss.

Ans. Every year on 11th July the World Population Day is celebrated. A few advertisements in the papers, some seminars, some symposia—and the next day everyone forgets about it. Even this year the celebration was no different. Exactly 5 years ago on July 11, 1987, the world population was estimated to have crossed the 5-billion mark. The present estimated population of 5.4 billion in the world is likely to convert into a staggering figure of 8.5 billion by 2025 AD. About 3.5 lac babies are born everyday and about 95% of them are born in the developing countries adding a frightening number of over 95 million every year to the world population. If the present trend continues, there will be a major crisis in food, housing, education, energy, health, education and environment in the world in the years to come.

The population scenario in India is even worse. Immediately after independence, our policy makers could sense that increased population could lead to multiple socio-economic problems in the years to come. As a result India earned the distinction of being the first country in the world to introduce Family Planning Programme in 1951. But it was only during mid-sixties that the Programme was implemented with due enthusiasm. After a minor setback the programme suffered during post-emergency era, the programme was once again pursued with fanfare during early eighties and in 1983, the

National Health Policy was announced. The main objective of this policy was "Health for all by the year 2000" and an integrated family welfare programme was launched with active support from international agencies like WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF. The policy envisaged a targeted population growth rate of 1.2%, birth rate of 21 births per thousand population per year, the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of 60 per thousand and a death rate of 9 per thousand per year. As against these targets the present population growth rate is around 2.03%, birth rate is around 31 per thousand population per year, the IMR of 91 per thousand and death rate of 10 per thousand. If the above achievements are any indication it seems highly unlikely that the ambitious targets laid down by the National Health Policy of 1983 would be achieved through a half-hearted and non-professional approach. Only death rate of 9 per thousand seems to be achievable by turn of the century. The envisaged growth rate of 1.2% has only been achieved in three States: Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Goa. The result is that on 30th June, 1992, the Indian population was about 886.6 million (estimated by Population Reference Bureau) which is over 16% of the world population, living only on 2.4% of the total land mass of the earth. If the present population growth rate of 2.03% continues, India will soon overtake China and will earn the dubious distinction of being the most populous country in the world. As per recent estimates of Population Reference Bureau, Indian population in 2010 A.D. will reach a mind-boggling figure of 1172 million.

It appears that the planners are also paying only lip service to the programme. Despite tall claims about achievements and rhetoric

about plan allocation in the Eighth Five Year Plan, a sum of Rs 6500 crore has been allocated for Family Welfare. It is claimed that this figure is more than double the previous plan outlay of Rs 3150 crore. But the outlay for eighth plan only maintains the past proportions. Present allocation of Rs 6500 crore comes to about 1.6% of the total Plan outlay, which was 1.8% during the Seventh Five Year Plan. Hence there is infact a decline in the proportionate allocation for the programme. Rather than suggesting a firm strategy, the Eighth Plan has rather scaled down the target of bringing down the birth rate to 21 per thousand in 2000 AD, to 26 per thousand by 1997 and achievement of the birth rate of 21 per thousand target has been deferred by over a decade to 2011 AD.

The lack-lustre achievements in the Family Welfare Programme only reflect a callous approach over the previous decades and the programme needs thorough retrospection and revamping. Some innovative and radical steps need to be taken to save the country from ensuing catastrophe, rather than sticking to the policy of motivation and incentives to promote this programme. The experience of Kerala has, to a great extent, proved a positive correlation between literacy and reduced population growth rate. Hence literacy in general and female literacy in particular, which is precariously low in the country at around 40%, need to be paid special attention. A legislation must be passed to make female literacy free and compulsory at least upto middle class level. Time is also ripe to push-up the female marriage age by at least two years to 20 years, thereby reducing two most productive years out of the married life of all females in the country. Our policy makers have been emphasising on terminal

methods of contraception so far. If a female, after giving birth to 4 or 5 children, adopts the terminal method at around 40 years of age, this is only an achievement in terms of targets, more stress therefore, needs to be placed on the spacing methods.

After the dreaded experience of coercion in Family Planning during the emergency, all governments now lack political will to resort to this hard option. But it appears that under the present circumstances some degree of selective coercion is warranted. Some serious thought need to be put into devise some deterrent penalties on defaulters. Science and technology also has a vital role to play to evolve new contraceptives to suit the illiterates, the most vulnerable strata of our society. In addition voluntary organisations, Mahila Mandals, social workers, non-government organisations and the private sector also have a very important role to play to make the family welfare programme a success.

The achievement of goals thus is difficult but not impossible. Through a consciously and professionally managed campaign if people are made aware of the future disaster awaiting them, the objectives can easily be achieved. It is imperative that government must declare a well defined strategy coupled with a clear cut plan of action. If with a well planned strategy and concerted efforts, a country like China can bring down the population growth rate to about 1.42% per annum, there is no reason why it cannot be done in India. A failure on this account today would only mean extreme poverty, unending misery, mass unemployment, recurring famines and depleted environment for the generations to come, and the new generations would not forgive their forefathers for this legacy. Let the planners act in time to evolve a national policy with emphasis on proper implementation to avoid the impending disaster.

Finance Commission

Q. What are the tasks assigned to the Finance Commissions? Criti-

cally examine the responsibilities assigned to the 10th Finance Commission.

Ans. In a federal system where majority of developmental tasks are assigned to the States, there is an inherent gap between the revenues assigned to them and their expenditure potential. Indian Constitution provides for rectification of these imbalances between resources and financial responsibilities of States through the mechanism of Finance Commissions.

Article 280(i) of Indian Constitution provides for setting up of a Finance Commission every five years to make recommendations on the following:

(a) The distribution between Union and States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be or may be divided between them and allocation between the States of the respective share of such proceeds.

(b) The principles which would govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of Consolidated Fund of India.

(c) Any other matter referred to the Finance Commission by the President.

Since independence nine Finance Commissions have given their reports pertaining to divisible proceeds like sharing of income tax, union excise duties, estate duties and other grants to the States.

On June 15, 1992, the President constituted Tenth Finance Commission under the Chairmanship of Shri K.C. Pant, a Former Defence Minister. Tenth Finance Commission has been assigned widened terms of references and some additional areas of responsibility about which it has been asked to make recommendations as under:

(a) To consider the objective of not only balancing the receipts and expenditure on the revenue account of both Union and the States but also need for generating surpluses for capital investment and reducing fiscal deficit.

(b) To review the Calamity Relief Fund Scheme and to make appropriate recommendations.

(c) To make an assessment of the debt position of States as on March 31, 1992 and to suggest corrective measures keeping in view the financial requirements of the States.

The Tenth Finance Commission will adopt the population figures of 1971 in all cases where the population is regarded as a factor for devolution of tax proceeds and grants-in-aid. The Finance Commission has been asked to submit its report by November 30, 1993 for a five-year period.

It is for the first time that the objective of reducing the fiscal deficit has been brought within the ambit of a Finance Commission. As a result, 10th Finance Commission will have to make an overall assessment of fiscal management in the country. During its first meeting with Finance Ministers of all States in August, 1992 several States voiced their criticism of formulating the terms of references of the Commission without consulting the State Governments. The States, while presenting their case, unanimously demanded waiver of loans given by the Centre, larger share in revenues and greater assistance under Natural Calamities Fund.

The financial crisis faced by the Centre and majority of States, have made the 10th Finance Commission report crucial. Recommendations of the Finance Commission apart, the States shall have to find ways to increase revenues, curb wasteful expenditure and generate surpluses for capital investment. Though the authority of the institution of Finance Commission has already been diluted by the existence of Planning Commission, an extra-constitutional body, yet the terms of reference given to the 10th Finance Commission make it different than previous Commissions. Rather than restricting the role of 10th Finance Commission to merely distributing the tax proceeds and grants-in-aid, an overall assessment of complete fiscal system of the union as well as the States will also be made by it. This advisory function assigned to the 10th Finance Commission might help the institution of Finance Commission redeem its lost glory.

Argumentative Questions

Social and Economic Problems

The following are the answers to the remaining questions of Paper III, "Social and Economic Problems", set for the Reserve Bank of India Grade 'A' officers examination held earlier this year. The answers to the first five questions of the paper were published in our October issue..

Collapse of Socialist Bloc

Q. 6. (a) Analyse the causes of the collapse of communist regimes in the Socialist Bloc countries.

(b) What do you think are the lessons that India can learn from these momentous developments?

Ans. (a) Collapse of Socialist Bloc: The vast Soviet Empire and shortly afterwards the Socialist Bloc in Eastern Europe, collapsed in 1990-91, mostly because of (a) the compulsion of events and the internal contradictions of Communism and Socialism, (b) the ill-conceived policies pursued by the power-obsessed leadership, (c) the severe economic and other hardships suffered year after year by the Soviet masses even while the top leadership generally lived in luxury, and (d) the increasing disillusionment of the masses about communist theory and practice, coupled with the rivalries and jealousies among the leaders in the erstwhile Soviet Union and members of other Socialist countries such as Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia where the ethnic factor also counted.

The acquisition of sweeping powers by President Gorbachov and the radical reforms he sought to introduce in an attempt to liberalise the strict regime intensified the growing discontent and disillusionment. President Gorbachov, who was described as the most powerful Soviet leader (he became the

country's first Executive President), was given vast authority to push through radical reforms and maintain civil peace.

In the wake of the increasing inter-ethnic violence and several warnings of a civil war, Mr Gorbachov pledged to use his powers not for self-glorification but for the interests of the country and the people. Through Perestroika (restructuring of the entire administration as well as the socio-economic set-up of the Soviet Union) and Glasnost (openness of the government and of society), he hoped to bring about a major revolution in the country. True, the people were eager for a change after Leninism and Stalinism, but they were not happy with the shape of events. While the world admired his statesmanship and vision, Mr Gorbachov found himself neck deep in trouble—social, ethnic and economic—at home. There was a complete paralysis of power. There was a destructive struggle for leadership between Mr Gorbachov and Mr Boris Yeltsin.

(b) Lessons for India: 1. Acquisition of wide authority and concentration of power in a single person, however sincere, often proves dangerous and has adverse reactions among the people.

2. The top leadership should not, in their eagerness and enthusiasm, try to enforce drastic reforms without adequately preparing the people for them. Radical reforms after a period of stagnation often misfire.

3. When drastic reforms fail, the disillusionment of the people is very great. Arousing high hopes of a virtual heaven on earth and failing to

fulfil them cause threats to the leadership. The reformers should march with the times steadily and not jump from one radical change to the next and so on.

4. India relied greatly on the Soviet Union, its close ally, but the risk implicit in putting all one's eggs in one basket has become apparent with the collapse of the U.S.S.R. Now India has to seek dependable allies elsewhere. Besides, we must watch developments with patience and not hasten to draw conclusions as Mr Narasimha Rao did when the opposition tried to stage a coup in Moscow in August, 1991. The coup failed and the Indian P.M. was caught on the wrong foot. Later, he had cause to regret his hasty action.

Social Problems

Q. 7. Identify and analyse three major social problems confronting India today and suggest measures to tackle them.

Ans. Of the many social problems this country faces, the most notable are: (1) discrimination against and oppression of women; resulting in bribe burning and other dowry deaths, etc. (2) population explosion, and (3) exploitation of children.

(1) Discrimination against Women: It is the apparently insatiable greed of men and women that has led to the evil of dowry, the burning of brides and suicides by young married girls who find themselves unable to meet the growing demands of their in-laws for money and modern conveniences and comforts. The pity is that with the passage of years and a higher percentage of literacy, the crimes against women

are increasing even in the country's capital—Delhi. There were more dowry deaths, cases of cruelty by husbands and molestations in 1991 than in 1989 and 1990, and the trend continues.

There are several laws on the statute-book to protect the rights of women, including the Equal Remuneration Act, the Minimum Wages Act and the Prohibition of Dowry Act, besides the Indian Penal Code. But the discrimination against women continues. The problems being faced by women are so vast and varied that the National Commission for Women, set up earlier this year, has a most challenging task ahead.

(2) Population Explosion: One of India's major social (and also economic) problems is that of the burgeoning population. According to the latest projections, our total population now exceeds 85 crore and may cross 100 crore in another few years. The family planning programmes have made some impact in cities and towns where most people have restricted the size of their families and have adopted the two-children norm by using various contraceptives, but in rural areas the growth rate of population is still disconcerting. This has partly offset the benefits of planned economic development and created many problems of food, housing, sanitation and other facilities. In its seriousness, depth and dimensions, this factor may become more dangerous than a war. A growth rate of 2 or 2.5 per cent per annum spells disaster.

Of the several possible measures to tackle the rapid increase in population, voluntary control methods and the cooperation of the masses, ensured through publicity and the realisation of the dangers of a population explosion, are the most practicable. China has shown the way. The use of compulsory sterilisation, resorted to during the Emergency years brought an adverse reaction from the people who voted out the Congress in the 1977 elections largely

for this reason. Planned parenthood on a vast scale is urgently needed. In this arena, more education and more effective motivation, together with incentives for small families, can play an effective role.

(3) Exploitation of Children: Several laws have been passed by Parliament and directives have been issued by the Supreme Court prohibiting the employment of children of tender age in various professions and hazardous occupations. But such laws and directives are being continually violated. The flouting of laws results in hindering the development of children's personality and substantial loss of life and limb wherever the occupations are full of hazards. This trend has been particularly noticeable in quarries, mines (near Delhi, Alwar and elsewhere); fireworks manufacturing units such as those in Sivakasi (South India). For instance, in August and September this year, there were fatal accidents in Sivakasi and in the quarries, resulting in several deaths. The Supreme Court passed severe strictures against the violators of laws.

Children continue to be employed on petty wages for washing utensils, sweeping floors and serving food in small hotels and "tandoors", although the laws require that all children below the age of 14 should be sent to school and properly educated. Consequently, society and the country as a whole suffer, not to speak of the bleak future facing such ruthlessly exploited children.

The relevant laws to check such exploitation should be strictly implemented and the guilty employees awarded deterrent punishment. The pity is that the employers generally manage to escape punishment by bribing the inspection staff and by engaging well-paid lawyers, who find loopholes in the evidence produced by the prosecuting agencies.

Status of Women

Q. 8. What is the status of

women in India today? To what extent can overall economic development reduce gender-based deprivation and discrimination?

Ans. The status of women in India today is far from satisfactory. In theory, Indian women have several legal (including constitutional) rights. But only a section of them, confined to urban areas, are fully aware of, and enthusiastic about exercising, these rights. Most of the women remain a neglected lot, shorn of fundamental rights and basic privileges. Their plight, by and large, is pathetic. Even in modern India countless women occupy a lowly, disadvantaged, humiliating position at the base of the social pyramid. The sense of male superiority still prevails in most parts of the country. It looks as if the lopsided customs and traditional inhibitions in social life will take several decades to disappear. The process of women's education is slow. As education and general enlightenment spread, the position of women will improve.

The Committee on the Status of Women declared that it was up to the Government of India to ensure implementation of the constitutional rights of women and called for a national policy for development of the wasted asset of 290 million citizens. The number is much larger now. Harijan women, in particular, still suffer from indignities.

The tragedy is that despite all the publicity and propaganda done for, and on behalf of, women, the discriminatory practices continue. The menace of female infanticide still exists in certain areas, such as U.P., Rajasthan and Bihar. Then there is the increasing evil of burning brides and the endless extortions for more dowry, even in a city like Delhi. Selfish people take maximum advantage of women's helplessness. Most women suffer silently. Women are still assaulted in urban areas.

Economic Development: There is no denying that the backwardness of women and the gap between the advancement of men and women

jeopardises the future of the community. It is a serious impediment to development. The gender-based deprivation and discrimination may be reduced by overall economic development. After all, it is poverty and tardy, lopsided economic progress that leads to exploitation of women and the denial of adequate opportunities to them for development of their talents and personality. Prosperity generally facilitates the removal of injustices and of suppression in the social arena of human activity. Economic development and execution of plans for progress will open up more avenues of employment to both men and women, thus curtailing, and finally eliminating, the various discriminatory practices.

However, there is an element of uncertainty in this proposition Japan is a highly progressive country in all spheres of economic activity but the Japanese women have still not acquired an equal share in public life. Many people continue to describe Japan as largely "a Man's country". The women there make legendary wives—submissive, delicate and tidy. Most Japanese men are not keen that women should occupy an equal status in the economic and political fields. In India also, political parties continue to deny women the rightful share of women in the membership of legislatures, etc. Only a few women are put up as candidates for Parliamentary and Assembly elections.

Dunkel Draft

Q. 9. Discuss the implications of the Arthur Dunkel text on multilateral trade under GATT for India.

Ans. The Dunkel draft on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) is a complete denial of the interests of developing countries such as India. The draft is heavily biased in favour of the patentees. While their rights have been enlarged, their obligations have been considerably watered down. Thus all the issues raised in the debates on the 'Code of Conduct for

Transfer of Technology' and the 'Code of Conduct for Multinational Corporations' have been conveniently forgotten. The developing countries have to contend with an unequal world order. This is the most important message of the Dunkel draft. One of the areas that would affect their interests substantially, should the Dunkel text be accepted as the Uruguay Round agreement, is that of Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

The proposals presented by the GATT Director-General have been built on the draft agreement submitted to the failed ministerial meeting of December, 1990 but with a difference. While the 1990 draft included several proposals made by the developing countries, along with those made by the developed countries, which were to be negotiated, the Dunkel proposals have systematically excluded all the developing countries' proposals. Only the developed countries' proposals remain in the "take it or leave it" draft. While presenting his draft, Mr Dunkel stated that there would be no substantial re-opening of the Agreement.

Three separate Agreements, from the draft text are—the Agreements on Goods, on IPRs, and on Services. A careful consideration of the Dunkel framework indicates that in effect this is not quite true. In the first place, the three Agreements are not independent; they have been linked to each other through the proposed Multilateral Trade Organisation (MTO). The MTO has been armed with an integrated dispute settlement arrangement which provides for cross retaliation between goods, services and IPRs, along the same lines as the US had attempted through the invocation of Super and Special-301.

Setting at rest the developing countries' objections is not a happy augury for countries such as India that had not accepted the Paris Convention. India participated in the dis-

cussion for revision of the convention. All countries that were non-members would now have no choice but to accept the existing rules of the Paris Convention. This would simultaneously take away the flexibility exercised by various countries in ratifying the earlier Acts of the Paris Convention.

The right of the patent holder have been expanded to include the right to import the patented product. This is the first time that the right to import has been included as a right of the patentee.

Historically, there has been no consensus as to what the duration of a patent grant should be. This fact has been recognised by the Paris Convention which leaves individual members free to decide on the period of protection they wish to provide under their national laws. The Dunkel draft seeks to alter this century-old convention in respect of the term of a patent. Instead of the flexibility provided under the Paris Convention, a uniform duration of patent term for all countries is sought to be introduced. Article 37 of the proposed TRIPS Agreement stipulates that the term of the patent protection should be 20 years from the filing date. India now has a patent term of 14 years for product patents and five years for process patents from the date of sealing the patent. Now both these will have to be extended to 20 years from the date of filing.

Moreover, India, like some other countries, has seen the generation of novel processes for the production of patented chemicals, including drugs. Under the Dunkel draft all producers using the new processes would have to prove that they are not infringing any patent rights. The proposed change does not augur well for the future of local enterprises in India and other countries which may find it difficult to cope with this challenge from the proposed patent regime. The dismantling of textile quotas is very inequitous.

DESCRIPTIVE QUESTIONS

The following are the answers to questions put in the BSRB, Baroda, P.O.'s examination (Descriptive Questions paper) held recently..

We thank Mr Tapas Mukherjee of Renukoot (U.P.), Mr Artabandhu Behera of Vani Vihar, Mr Anil Kumar Ray of Behala, Mr Shivendu Ranjan and Mr Daya Nand Dubey of Patna, and Mr Ajay Kumar Datta of Calcutta, for having sent us a copy of the question paper.

Q. 1. "Some people feel that famous sports persons should not allow their pictures to be used by cigarette companies in the advertisements of their products." Give two arguments in favour and two arguments against the above proposition in about 150 words. Substantiate your arguments with appropriate examples.

Ans. The cooperation which some famous sports persons extend to cigarette companies by allowing their photographs to be used in their advertisements can certainly be regarded as objectionable, though those who are addicted to tobacco may hold a different opinion. In fact, the category of smokers feel happy about, and derive satisfaction from, seeing such photographs published in advertisements of their favourite brand of cigarettes. These feed their ego and make them happy.

Arguments For the proposition

1. Famous sports persons should certainly not allow their pictures to be used by cigarette companies to promote the sales of their products because their popular personality would thus be exploited to encourage smoking, which is a pernicious and harmful habit. People would tend to think that their favourite athlete or player is actually recommending the use of that particular brand of cigarettes.

2. Many people would think that the obliging sports person is

willing to lend his (or her) name to publicise any product, good or bad, for the sake of getting some money as their fee. Good people are not expected to let their names be utilised for commercial purposes by business firms.

3. They should realise that they would be countering their Government's professed policy of discouraging people from patronising Lady Nicotine. In fact it would be an anti-national act.

Arguments Against the proposition

1. The publication of sports persons' pictures in cigarette advertisements gives publicity not only to the product thus advertised but also to the sportsperson whose vanity is often fed by such propaganda. I don't think the use of Sunil Gavaskar's photograph would promote the sale of the advertised product. Similarly, I do not think the publication of a picture of Ramesh Krishnan, the tennis star, or of Geet Sethi, the billiards champion in a whisky advertisement would promote the sale of liquor.

2. As for the harmful effect of smoking it is very unlikely that some people would start smoking, or those already addicted to tobacco would smoke even more cigarettes simply because the photograph of a sportsman or sportswoman has been published as an inset in an advertisement. On the contrary, the image of the famous "star" would get tarnished in this manner.

The fact that we haven't come across any instance of a leading sports person's photograph being regularly published in a cigarette advertisement proves that such persons do not like to be associated with advertisements of this nature.

TV Censorship

Q. 2. Some people feel that the best censorship on television is to

switch it off. Others do not agree with this viewpoint. Explain your views on this proposition in about 150 words, giving examples from your experience, knowledge and reading.

Ans. When television programmes become dull, tedious and boring (as Doordarshan programmes generally are), the viewers switch off their sets or turn to other channels (where additional channels are available). This explains the growing popularity of cable and dish satellite programmes, which lay all the stress on entertainment (music, sports, films, dances, etc). They provide amazing variety, make no attempt at preaching any particular doctrine or philosophy, or at imparting instruction or education, through the TV medium. India has witnessed a historic television revolution in recent months. Cable, Satellite, Prime Sports and BBC programmes indeed provide round-the-clock and absorbing entertainment for people of all ages and all tastes. Cable TV, in particular, has made sharp inroads into Doordarshan coverage.

It is undeniable that the best censorship against Doordarshan is to switch it off, but surely switch-off by viewers out of disappointment would not automatically become known to the Doordarshan authorities, unless angry viewers convey their displeasure through letters or telephone calls. It is difficult, however, to know how many people actually switch off their sets when the programme is not interesting. Many viewers just keep their sets running even when the programmes presented on them cause yawns and induce sleep because they do not have any alternative—no cable or satellite dish TV fittings.

It must be admitted that, though

belatedly, the Doordarshan authorities have realised that they have already lost hundreds of viewers and that their programmes need to be reoriented radically to meet the new challenges and to cater to the people's changing tastes and requirements. They have already introduced some changes and innovations, and now lay greater stress on entertainment and better programmes, including good films. The dull fare they were presenting all these years may soon become a story of yesterday. Towards the end of September the Doordarshan authorities invited suggestions from the viewers about the type of programmes that they would like to watch. A reoriented framework has been devised and changes are being made in the existing schedules.

Velocity of Light

Q. 3. What would happen if the velocity of light is reduced substantially? Write your answer in about 150 words.

Ans. If the velocity of light is reduced substantially, (a very unlikely eventuality) we would not be able to see things very far. Human vision would, in effect, be sharply curtailed. This in turn would mean that several things might happen which would not be noticeable. A train or a motor-car coming from the opposite direction at a fast speed would not be noticed. This might result in mishaps.

In fact, our entire life-style and pattern would be upset. Light travels much more rapidly than sound. All of us have noticed that a flash of light may be followed several seconds later by the sound of thunder. We would be able to hear the sound because, presumably, the velocity of sound would remain unaffected, but we would not be able to see the source of the noise. This would mean deception at every step, except in the case of events which take place only a short distance away.

At present we can notice objects like high hills at any rate in outline when they are far, far away, and we can also spot aeroplanes from a

reasonable distance. All this sight would become an old story and many pleasures would be denied to us. We would, to all intents and purposes, become short-sighted and also otherwise handicapped because we would be able to see only other human beings and stationary objects which are close by.

Light, after all, is a form of energy. It is through light that we can see the world around us. Light is the only form of energy that is directly visible and therefore it is the most useful. When the visibility is reduced, as happens when there is dense fog in winter, we find ourselves in a very difficult and even baffling situation. There would be delay all round because of our reduced vision. Even before scientists discovered the laws of refraction and diffraction, they acquired knowledge of the speed of light, which explains many questions about the behaviour of light. If the velocity of light is reduced, the existing concepts of the effectiveness of this form of energy which, according to scientists, behaves both as particles and as waves would be changed.

Impact of Education

Q. 4. Education has produced a large population which is able to read but unable to distinguish between what is worth reading and what is not. How do you view this proposition? Explain your stand in about 150 words, giving appropriate examples.

Ans. Merely becoming literate is very different from acquiring a high sense of discrimination which would enable a person to judge things on merit. It must be admitted that real and sound education is not being imparted in our schools. Students just cram up answers to likely questions in order to get through their examinations somehow.

The present system of education does not bring real enlightenment, nor does it develop our sense of judgement. Most of the time it does not help the students to distinguish

between chalk and cheese. Education should not be something in the air, cut off from our daily life or from our future as citizens. Real education must be based on the actual environment and experiences of the student and it must fit him for the work he or she may have to do in life.

Good education stimulates the mind, while spurious education does nothing of the kind. Education, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru stressed, should develop, to some extent at least, the scientific temper. Of course shabby, shabby buildings, leaking roofs and tottering, makeshift structures in which many schools are located are not desirable and do not facilitate the imparting of sound education, but at the same time, in view of our limited sources, we must not give undue importance to brick, mortar and glass.

The stress, instead, should be on creating good, responsible citizen who can make a distinction between good and evil. A well-educated person avoids badly written, dirty publications, including those which feature semi-naked bodies of young women or specialise in immoral and sex stories. A good book is much like a treasure while a bad one is a danger to human character and ruins sensitive minds. So the basic purpose of education should be to develop the basic traits of character.

What is the use of education if it fails to develop the faculty of distinguishing between what is worth reading and what is not, who is worth having as a friend and who is not, whose friendship should be cultivated and whose company should be avoided? It is this sense of judgement that is a vital test of sound education.

Most of us are aware of people who are semi-educated and lack the essential traits of an intelligent person. There are many examples of supposedly educated people who spend money in buying mere trash and third-rate reading material just to get a "thrill" out of it. Such persons thus betray lack of breeding and of sound judgement.

Improve Your Word Power

1. **agog:** (a) excited (b) dull (c) joyous (d) smart.
2. **brace:** (a) define (b) confine (c) support (d) waste.
3. **contrition:** (a) reward (b) repentance (c) donation (d) mercy.
4. **duress:** (a) coercion (b) promise (c) promotion (d) indulgence.
5. **echelon:** (a) identity (b) follower (c) opponent (d) rank.
6. **forlorn:** (a) fortunate (b) funny (c) fearful (d) uncared.
7. **gambit:** (a) appeal (b) explanation (c) trick (d) expression.
8. **hooch:** (a) squash (b) liquor (c) soup (d) juice.
9. **impale:** (a) perform (b) pierce (c) reform (d) influence.
10. **jiggle:** (a) stop (b) move (c) laugh (d) smile.
11. **lacklustre:** (a) remarkable (b) affectionate (c) moderate (d) lifeless.
12. **mire:** (a) inspiration (b) opinion (c) movement (d) dirt.
13. **nitwit:** (a) intelligent (b) sharp (c) stupid (d) rare.
14. **privy:** (a) personal (b) general (c) public (d) popular.
15. **quirk:** (a) diversion (b) habit (c) aversion (d) conversion.
16. **rue:** (a) rejoice (b) fill (c) hope (d) repent.
17. **staid:** (a) brave (b) timid (c) serious (d) passive.
18. **tawdry:** (a) ugly (b) notorious (c) cheap (d) plenty.
19. **vogue:** (a) rejection (b) fashion (c) order (d) satisfaction.
20. **whittle:** (a) decrease (b) avoid (c) conceal (d) renounce.

ANSWERS

1. **agog:** (a) excited, eager
—After the communal riots, the city/town was *agog* with rumours.
2. **brace:** (c) support, strengthen, reinforce.
—To the surprise of all present, he *braced* his foot against the wall and jumped.
3. **contrition:** (b) repentance, regret.
—He was bold enough to show *contrition* of heart after he had realised his mistake.
4. **duress:** (a) coercion, compulsion.
—The accused told the judge that he had signed the statement/confession under *duress*.
5. **echelon:** (d) rank, arrangement.
—Even in the parliamentary/presidential form of government, policies and programmes are formulated by the upper *echelons* of bureaucracy.
6. **forlorn:** (d) uncared, lonely, deserted, miserable.
—Ever since the death of his mother, my friend is utterly *forlorn* and depressed.
7. **gambit:** (c) trick, device, move.
—The speaker's opening *gambit* at the debate was a direct attack on the new economic policy of the government.
8. **hooch:** (b) liquor (alcoholic).
—In India people dying or getting blind due to adulterated *hooch* drinking has become a normal happening.
9. **impale:** (b) pierce.
—In former times, prisoners' heads were *impaled* on pointed stakes.
10. **jiggle:** (b) move (lightly), twitch.
—In order to open the locked door, my father told me to *jiggle* the proper key in the lock.
11. **lacklustre:** (d) uninspiring/lifeless, dull.
—At the Barcelona Olympics, Indian contingent gave a *lacklustre* performance in all disciplines/competitions.
12. **mire:** (d) dirt/mud.
—Creative artists/intellectuals hesitate to jump into the *mire* of politics.
13. **nitwit:** (c) stupid, fool.
—By making an un-called for comment in the company of scholars, the critic made a *nitwit* of himself.
14. **privy:** (a) personal, secret, private.
—The 'yellow press' is ever eager to peep into the *privy* affairs of public men and super-stars.
15. **quirk:** (b) habit, eccentricity, peculiarity.
—He had a strange *quirk* of addressing his wife as "My Fair Lady".
16. **rue:** (d) repent/regret
—He is *rueing* the day he joined the gang of smugglers and peddlers (persons who sell illegal drugs).
17. **staid:** (c) serious, sober, conservative.
—I was surprised to see him at the jazz club; I always thought of him as a rather *staid* old gentleman.
18. **tawdry:** (c) cheap, showy, gaudy.
—When the play was staged before the audience, the female characters wore *tawdry* jewellery.
19. **vogue:** (b) fashion, style.
—The novels that dealt with social problems were a great *vogue* in the thirties.
20. **whittle:** (a) decrease, remove.
—Inflation and high prices have *whittled* away the savings of the salaried class.

Notes on Current Affairs

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

♦ KASHMIR NOT NEGOTIABLE ♦ NEW POLL REFORMS PACKAGE ♦ P.M. FAVOURS COMMITTEE SYSTEM ♦ PLEA FOR STATES REORGANISATION ♦ CHINKS OVER JHARKHAND ♦ GRAVE INFILTRATION PROBLEM ♦ HUMAN RIGHTS BILL ♦ ECONOMY POISED FOR GREAT LEAP ♦ INDIA-SRI LANKA RELATIONS IMPROVE ♦ INDIAN TV TO COUNTER "STAR" ♦ INDIA SEEKS COUNCIL SEAT ♦ INDIA ASKS FOR FRENCH TECHNOLOGY ♦ INDIA, PAK TRADE CHARGES ♦ INDIA & BRITAIN SIGN EXTRADITION TREATY ♦

Kashmir not negotiable

DURING his Paris visit (Sept 29-30) Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao asserted that Kashmir is non-negotiable, as it is, and has always been, an integral part of India. He further warned that Pakistan's claim over this sensitive border State challenges the very basis of India's secular character.

"India is a secular State and cannot allow determination of States on narrow religious considerations because we believe in the welfare of humanity as a whole and not of any particular religion", Mr Rao asserted. He told the audience, mainly French policy makers and intellectuals, that India is a "non-aggressive" State and has never annexed any territory. On the contrary, it has been attacked several times and has, therefore, to defend its frontiers.

Referring to bilateral disputes with Pakistan, Mr Rao said all outstanding issues with Pakistan would be resolved through parleys. India is a secular country and could not agree to States being carved out on religious lines, which was the only basis for Pakistan's claim to Kashmir.

Mediation offer on Kashmir: India on September 29 rejected outright an offer by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to send a "good offices mission" to India and Pakistan to ease tension between the two countries and facilitate a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue. It also strongly condemned a statement issued at the annual coordination

meeting of OIC in New York charging New Delhi with "alarming escalation of repressive measures against the people of Kashmir" and the decision to send a "fact finding mission" to the State as well as the areas occupied by Pakistan.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said OIC's views, "are one-sided, unacceptable, prejudiced and irrelevant", and added: "We would like to reiterate that there is no question of our accepting any good offices or fact-finding or mediatory missions."

He said the contents of the OIC statement "were a matter of great regret, although not one of surprise considering the past track record of OIC". He pointed out that India had in the past made it clear to OIC members that the disturbed situation in Kashmir was the result of external interference in support of terrorism and militancy. "We have categorically asserted that the problem is not a religious one. OIC has no *locus standi* in the matter."

New Poll Reforms Package

PUBLICATION and audit of accounts of political parties, putting a ceiling on election expenses and elimination of non-serious candidates are the salient features of a comprehensive legislation on electoral reforms the Union Government proposes to bring forward in the winter session of Parliament.

The main proposals include setting up a multi-member Election

Commission, mode of appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner, delimitation on the basis of the 1991 census without affecting the existing number of seats and rotation of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

For discouraging non-serious candidates, the Government has proposed increasing the amount of security deposits and enhancing the number of proposers for nomination of a candidate.

Asked whether the Government intended to plug the existing loopholes in the Anti-defection Law in view of the recent controversies over some of its provisions, Union Law Minister Reddy said a consensus had emerged, after intensive parleys with Opposition parties and other groups and departments concerned, that there should be an appeal against the Speaker's orders but it should not be through a judicial process.

The Government is examining alternate proposals in this regard. One proposal stipulated that the President, Speaker and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha should be advised by the Chief Election Commissioner or a Committee of Supreme Court Judges. However, certain problems had cropped up on the issue of involving the President in such matters.

The proposals include introduction of photo identity cards and making post offices the focal point for preparation and maintenance of electoral rolls. The other proposals include restricting a candidate from contesting from more than one constituency, reduction in the campaign period, no countermanding of election in case of death of any candidate and giving more powers to the Election Commission.

Publication and audit of accounts

of political parties and making the ceiling on election expenses realistic by empowering the Election Commission to fix it before each general election have been proposed as part of the wide-ranging reforms.

P.M. favours Committee System

PRIME Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao expressed himself in favour of experimenting with the Committee System in Parliament and assured his Government's whole-hearted cooperation in making it a success. He was addressing the first-ever conference in 45 years on the issue of "discipline and decorum in Parliament and State legislatures" in which presiding officers, leaders of parties, Ministers and whips participated. The Prime Minister said that it was always good to have a smaller committee discuss issues threadbare before they were brought into the House.

At the same time, while stating that it had become necessary to review the situation regarding discipline and decorum on the basis of actual experience and where things had gone a little out of hand, Mr Narasimha Rao said he agreed with the Speaker's view that it may not be necessary to have a separate code of conduct and that "If we follow the rules properly, the purpose of having a code of conduct would be achieved." The Indian parliamentarians and legislators were a "hard working lot" by any standards and they virtually worked round the clock without being paid overtime. Even when rules were violated, it was done "innocently and unwittingly" making his ministers the "unintended beneficiaries" of sudden suspension of question hour.

Plea for States Reorganisation

THE BJP leader, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, has appealed for a reorganisation of States in the country with economic development and administrative convenience serving as the prime criteria. Addressing a Press

conference, he opposed the demand for a separate Jharkhand State in its present form even as he refused to be categorical on the Maharashtra BJP supporting a separate State for Vidarbha. "Our party is all for redrawing the political map of the country by setting up the second States Reorganisation Commission. But this should be done when the political atmosphere is calm and peaceful", he asserted.

The time had come to review the 1950 linguistic reorganisation of States on the basis of economic development and administrative convenience. He pointed out that Haryana and Himachal Pradesh had progressed rapidly after they were accorded a separate status. He disagreed with the Union Home Minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, that setting up the second States Reorganisation Commission at this juncture would open up a Pandora's box. He regretted that the Centre had taken no cognisance of the U.P. Assembly's resolution for a separate Uttaranchal. The Congress Party and Government obviously could not shed their ad hoc and piecemeal approach to the problem.

Chinks over Jharkhand

REPORTS from Bihar indicate that the movement for a separate Jharkhand State has exposed the chinks in the armour of the ruling Janata Dal and the Congress in Bihar with several top-rung leaders supporting the demand for Statehood, the official stand of the State party leadership opposing it notwithstanding. The issue has also driven a wedge between the Left parties, with the CPI, the IPF and the Marxist coordination committee favouring the demand and the CPM vehemently opposing it.

Political observers attribute the CPM's opposition to the demand to the fact that the votaries of Jharkhand State insist on the inclusion of areas of West Bengal in the proposed State. The recent *bandh* and "economic blockade" programme of the AJSU and the Jharkhand People's

Party, which petered out without making any significant impact on the momentum of the movement, however, succeeded in creating serious differences on the issue in the ruling party and the opposition Congress.

Political observers feel that the Congress, which was yet to recover from the debacle in the last Lok Sabha elections and later due to growing dissidence, was pushed to the wall with several of its senior leaders belonging to the Plateau region coming out openly in support of the creation of a separate State. It was not the Congress alone which was rattled by dissidence in the wake of the AJSU-JPP agitation as the Janata Dal also had to face the music with three of its Ministers and an equal number of legislators supporting the Jharkhand case.

The Chief Minister, Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav, executed a "political somersault" by saying that a separate Jharkhand State could be created "only over my dead body".

"Jharkhand not feasible": The Central Government has repeatedly ruled out the formation of a separate State of Jharkhand. The Bihar administration has also expressed its opposition to any proposal to carve out a new entity from its territory.

A confidential report sent to the Union Government by the State Government has said the "demand for a separate sub-State comprising Chhotanagpur division and Santhal Parganas is not at all maintainable". According to the Government, there can be no two opinions that any further division of the present State of Bihar will jeopardise national unity.

The report also maintains that the "residuary and the new State will not be economically viable and will thus be a permanent liability for the country", adding that the "need of the hour is obviously consolidation and not division". Agitations for a separate Jharkhand had led to the constitution of the Committee on Jharkhand Matters (COJM) which has already submitted its report. It also led to the passing of the

Jharkhand Area Development Council (JADC) Bill by the Vidhan Sabha, which is yet to obtain the consent of the Centre.

The Government has stated that the linguistic and cultural homogeneity in the proposed State would be a chimera because tribals constitute only 34 per cent of the total population of Chhotanagpur and Santhal Parganas.

Grave Infiltration Problem

THE flow of immigrants from Bangladesh into Indian territory, especially Tripura, has lately assumed serious proportions and poses a social and economic threat. The magnitude of the problem can be gauged from Mr S.B. Chavan's observation that it has now become extremely difficult to make a correct estimate of those who managed to sneak in and merge with the local population. Apart from the demographic distortion and consequent social problems, the BJP's threat to launch a 'yatra' from the north-east carries the potential of disrupting law and order in large parts of the country in view of the obvious communal angle. There is an urgent need to initiate administrative measures to check the flow as well as to detect and deport those who have already entered. The distribution of identity cards will take time, while the suggestion to encourage local people to report the presence of outsiders in their midst can spark off clashes, vitiating the atmosphere and spreading concern even among bona fide citizens.

Bangladesh is reportedly planning to counter India's "Operation Pushback" plan under which Bangladeshi refugees are sent back across the border by the security forces. This has become a major issue in Dhaka and most newspapers prominently carry reports on the Indian operation every day. The Bengali daily "Bangla Bazar Patrika" carried a main story saying that Bangladesh policy makers are contemplating a "pushback" plan to counter the Indian moves.

The newspaper, quoting "authoritative sources", said the Government had instructed the Bangladesh Rifles and the police in the border areas to resist the deportation of these "so-called" Bangladesh nationals from across the border.

Tripura's demand: Tripura has demanded immediate barbed wire fencing of the border, construction of roads and strengthening of BSF and a mobile task force to stop infiltration from Bangladesh.

The Chief Minister Mr Samir Ranjan Burman placed the demand before the conference of the Chief Ministers in Delhi on September 28. It was important to stop infiltration for maintaining communal harmony and hasten the economic development of the State, he argued. It is a difficult task to seal the 867 km-long border with Bangladesh and it was also difficult to identify the infiltrators due to cultural and ethnic affinity among the people on both sides of the border.

The infiltration had created an adverse impact on the economic and social condition of the State and had caused ethnic tension between the tribal and non-tribals. Some opportunists were active in fomenting ethnic tensions for their narrow political interests.

Human Rights Bill

THE Union Home Minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, has made it clear that Amnesty International would not be permitted to tour various parts of India to investigate alleged violations of human rights. But legislation for establishing the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) would in all likelihood be ready for introduction in Parliament only in the monsoon session of 1993.

Amnesty would not be allowed to go round the country, Mr Chavan explained, because they give reports without verifications from the State governments or the Central Government, creating the impression that "there is no rule of law in India". He also said that "our friends" (meaning

non-governmental human rights organisations) "have been providing them information". The importance attached (by Amnesty) to their information will get reduced once the Commission begins its work.

The Home Minister stated that India would not put up with the (Amnesty) idea that there was no rule of law in India. While not denying that stray incidents took place, he said the central issue was whether such incidents were taken note of and if punitive action was taken by the appropriate authority. He was satisfied that this was happening in India.

Economy poised for great leap

INDIA could become one of the world's most dynamic economies during the second half of the 1990s and beyond, if the current pace of reform is maintained over the next three or four years, according to the World Bank. In an assessment just released on "Trends in developing economies 1992", the bank notes that the present Government has overcome the immediate balance of payments problems, reduced macro-economic imbalances and initiated a major transformation of India's development strategy". Further policy changes to improve the tax system and reform public enterprises are to be implemented in the near future.

GDP Up: As a result of the liberalisation measures of the '80s, the bank points out, GDP growth accelerated to over 5 per cent, driven by largely expanding industrial production and exports. The incidence of poverty declined to below 30 per cent of the population as a result of rapid growth and anti-poverty programmes.

The bank says despite improvements, the balance of payments will remain fragile and dependent on exceptional financing over the next four or five years. Liberalising imports is central to the success of the reform process underway but makes the management of the balance of pay-

ments risky.

India well set for higher Growth: India will be able to launch a sustainable growth rate of 6 to 7 per cent per annum. This will be possible after the current structural reforms. But the development efforts of India and of the developing world in general, need the continuing support of external resource flows.

This was the message of Dr Manmohan Singh, the Finance Minister, at the World Bank annual meeting on September 23. Currently, growth in the world remained slow and uneven.

In recent years, a wave of economic reform had swept both the developing world and the erstwhile centrally planned economies. Their sustained expansion would benefit four-fifths of humanity and will expand the demand for goods and services worldwide. Helping this growth would help the world, rich and poor alike.

India-Sri Lanka Relations Improve

AS a result of the two-day visit of President Premadasa, the current Chairman of SAARC, to New Delhi (Sept 30-Oct 1) relations between India and Sri Lanka have improved. Mr Premadasa sought closer links with India. He described the relations at present as "quite good".

India has expressed support to the proposal for effective devolution of powers within the framework of a united Sri Lanka to pave the way for an early solution of the ethnic conflict. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honour of the Sri Lankan leader, President S.D. Sharma said the 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka agreement was "a sincere attempt to resolve the ethnic problem that had sadly gone on for well over a decade".

"What is needed is an effective devolution of powers within the framework of a united Sri Lanka in which all citizens of the country would be able to live a secular life with honour and dignity as equals", he added. Underlining that diversity

characterised both the India and Sri Lankan societies, Dr Sharma said India was guided by a Constitution that guaranteed equal treatment to all citizens in keeping with India's time-honoured ethos.

India believes that the essential unity that lies behind diversity needs to be fostered so that aspirations of all sections of the population could be realised. He said there was need to strengthen cooperation in the economic field to tap its full potential in the two countries. Indo-Sri Lanka trade had significantly increased in the last two years and efforts were on to identify the various sectors in which cooperation promised to yield substantial benefit to both countries.

Indian TV to counter "STAR"

THE Government of India is now getting ready to counter the "STAR" invasion. On October 1 it formally notified the scheme for the allotment of time-slots for private producers on Doordarshan's second channel in the four metropolitan cities. The notification, however, laid down that cross media restrictions would be enforced for the scheme under which producers interested in news and news related programmes must not be owning any newspaper/magazine in circulation in the area covered by the channel. The guidelines of this scheme will also be applicable to FM-channels of All India Radio (AIR).

The composition of the Broadcasting Council, which is to oversee this work, will be announced shortly. The latest notification is the culmination of months of discussion and debate in the Government, ever since the authorities acknowledged that it had to take some radical steps to compete with the growing popularity of cable television.

The nine-point guidelines governing the scheme lay down that the metro channel must telecast programmes which are considered by the Broadcasting Council to be socially relevant and developmental, for at least 20 per cent of its broad-

casting time.

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry will have the powers to issue directions and lay down policy guidelines in respect of the scheme from time to time and the Council will be required to be amenable to such directions and guidelines.

The guidelines also require that the applicants must have a proven track record in producing television/radio programmes, feature films, video films, video magazines and documentaries. The track record of the licencees in terms of the quality of their programmes would form an essential criteria at the time of considering renewal of their licence. The Broadcasting Council might, on repeated infringement of the guidelines or on account of the non-compliance with the conditions, suspend or revoke the licence.

India seeks Council seat

FOR the first time India has formally staked its claim for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council as and when it is expanded. Japan, Germany and Brazil are among the other nations aspiring for a permanent position on the Council, which at present has 15 members, including five permanent ones.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, addressing the UN General Assembly on September 26 stressed that, along with economic criteria, other relevant issues should also be given due weightage during the expansion of the Council. Japan and Germany are demanding a permanent seat on the basis of their economic strength.

But several developing countries have expressed the view that population and size of a country as also its standing in the region are also factors which need to be given due weight. This would ensure that whole regions and large populations do not go unrepresented on the Council. India's plea is that implementation of the Secretary-General's proposals for strengthening the world body in various fields would mean a more

vigorous Security Council.

An enhanced mandate for the Council requires matching transparency and democracy in its functioning. This cannot be done without an expansion of the membership of the Council to reflect the increased membership of the United Nations over the past few years as well as the realities of many changes in the world situation. India's contention is that, along with economic criteria, other relevant criteria should be given due weightage in this context. Besides, the General Assembly be made more effective not only to represent the changes in its membership but also the significant character of its universal composition.

Diplomats said expansion would take quite some time as the permanent Council members with veto powers are not favourably inclined. But sustained pressure, especially from economically strong nations, is bound to force them to reconsider their position and initiate steps to increase the membership of the Council, including the number of permanent members. One option being considered is that some States be made permanent members without the right to veto and another possibility being explored is making permanent members on the basis of regions.

India asks for French technology

PRIME Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on September 29 told leaders of the French trade and industry that India offered new and attractive investment opportunities. He utilised other occasions also to call for the revival of the North-South dialogue and for expansion of the U.N. Security Council which should be accountable and more representative. Mr Rao's advice to powerful nations was to banish thoughts of domination and exploitation of the weak. Any lack of democracy among nations could lead to totalitarianism. He selected France to deliver this message, hoping that in view of the

French sensitivities about a unipolar world and about the problems of the deprived south, it may be a fertile ground. India sought the latest French technology for peaceful uses of atomic energy, aerospace and biotechnology and hoped the ongoing Franco-Indian cooperation in science and technologies would not be hampered by extraneous pressures.

India is keen on renewing the contract for the delivery of enriched uranium for its Tarapur atomic plant due to expire next year, supply of electronic circuits for its satellites and cryogenic rocket engines for its space programme. It wants French technology in sugar, energy and agro-industries.

While reiterating the Government's commitment to pursue the programme of economic liberalisation, the Prime Minister stated that there was no mechanistic equation between a free market and holistic development, just as free market was not necessarily equal to democracy. The role of the State in the alleviation of poverty or the creation of a free market could not be written off.

A political initiative had to be taken by the Prime Minister in scientific co-operation because of the Indian concern that external pressures on France may limit the existing co-operation in nuclear energy and space in view of western insistence on signing the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and quietly accepting the order sought to be imposed by the existing missile club.

The Prime Minister called for the revival of the North-South dialogue and cautioned against any world order in which mighty nations would exploit "the current fluid situation, to perpetuate their dominant status".

India, Pak trade charges

INDIA has again asked Pakistan to stop training, sustaining and arming terrorists and secessionist elements in Kashmir and interfering in the internal affairs of India, in the interest of good neighbourly relations. "The only dispute that remains

in Kashmir is the vacation of aggression by Pakistan", the Indian representative said during a verbal clash between the two countries over Kashmir in the U.N. General Assembly. The clash occurred after Pakistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs accused India of repression in Kashmir and demanded self-determination for the people of the State.

Charging Pakistan with indulging in misleading propaganda, India stressed that the State of Jammu and Kashmir is, and shall remain, an integral part of India for ever regardless of Islamabad's manoeuvres. Self-determination, he told Pakistan, cannot be applied to integral parts of a country.

The Indian spokesman quoted extensively from the US State Department's report which speaks of "credible reports throughout 1991 of official Pakistani support to Kashmiri militant groups engaged in terrorism in Indian-controlled Kashmir as well as support to Sikh militant groups engaged in terrorism in Indian Punjab".

In his attempt to internationalise the issue, the Pakistani spokesman repeated the Pakistani proposal for stationing impartial observers along the Line of Actual Control to investigate accusations of interference. Denying that Pakistan is helping the militants and secessionists, he contended that the uprising in Kashmir is entirely indigenous and spontaneous. Meanwhile, the European Community has expressed concern over what it called "continuing reports of wider human rights violations in both India and Pakistan".

India & Britain Sign Extradition Treaty

INDIA and Britain on September 23 signed a historic extradition treaty and an agreement on confiscation of extremists' assets, heralding a new era of bilateral co-operation against terrorism and drug trafficking. The new legal regime will ensure that Britain no longer shelters anti-India extremists operating from British ter-

ritory and that the Britain-based patrons of Indian terrorist groups are disallowed from operating with impunity. The treaty replaces the ineffective Fugitive Offenders Act, hitherto governing extradition arrangements between the Commonwealth countries.

The Union Home Minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, and the British Home Secretary, who signed the agreement, declared that the new measures would reinforce the two countries' determination to "defeat the evil of terrorism" and provide a legal underpinning to their joint resolve to combat terrorism and drug-related crimes on their soils.

The treaty is significant as it obliterates the political factor from crimes of violence as a defence against extradition and provides that any crime carrying the sentence of 12 months or more in either country could become a case for extradition. The confiscation agreement, coupled with the British Charities Bill, will prevent illegal movement of money and its laundering, especially through religious institutions, for funding terrorist activities in Punjab and Kashmir.

The extradition treaty, more or less similar to the existing Indo-Canadian extradition treaty, is the

first between Britain and another Commonwealth country. It ensures a greater readiness to consider extradition which would also depend on strong evidence collected by the country asking for extradition.

India would be creating an analogous legal regime to control terrorism and these laws would be the same as those in the UK. This would mean both countries will apply respective laws for the sake of each other.

The agreement on confiscation of terrorists and drug runners' assets is the first of its kind in the world, where two countries act together on the subject and India is the first country with which Britain has signed such an agreement. This provides for forfeiture of funds and assets of any individual or organisation involved in terrorism or drug-trafficking in one country. The assets of the guilty would be confiscated not only in that country but also in the other country.

The measure also provides for orders of the courts in one country to be executable in the other country. Under the agreement and the Anti-terrorism Act searches and seizures could also be made in the premises of suspect individuals and organisations.

into a fundamental reassessment of its future.

The treaty is designed to unite the 12-nation EC in common economic foreign and defence policies and a single currency by 1999. The referendum was widely viewed as having more international ramifications than any election in French history, although it did not threaten the EC itself.

Voters were asked a single question: "Do you approve the bill submitted to the French people by the President of the republic authorising the ratification of the treaty on European union?" Backers say the treaty would help transform the trading bloc of 338 million people into a political and economic super power that could better compete with the USA and Japan. Opponents say France would lose control over economic and immigration policies.

The French vote has demonstrated that they are now committed to the concept of a united Europe even if it means some watering down of their proud nationalism. The French, more than any other people, not only fashioned the modern concept of the nation-State but also endowed it with the essential element of republicanism. The fear of an overpowering Germany, intensified by the upheaval caused in European money markets by German monetary policies, was only one factor which weighed on the minds of the French.

In one way, Asia and the world are beneficiaries of the narrow French endorsement of the Treaty. Everyone has been forcefully reminded that those who preach democracy should also practise it.

Maastricht Treaty and India: There has lately been much discussion in official circles in New Delhi on the probable impact of the Maastricht Treaty on India and other developing countries. The European Community, with its 340 million people, is the world's most affluent and fastest-growing market, accounting for 40 per cent of the world trade. But India

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

♦ MAASTRICHT TREATY APPROVED ♦ "WHITE PAPER" ON TIBET ♦ STATE SET FOR DEMOCRACY IN S. AFRICA ♦ U.S.-ISRAEL MILITARY PACT ♦ YUGOSLAVIA OUT OF UN ♦ U.N. SETS UP "WAR CRIMES" PANEL ♦ DEFENCE PACT AGAINST SERBIA ♦ CHINA-U.S. TENSION ♦ SUSPENSE IN U.S. POLL ♦ CHINA-S. KOREA SUMMIT ♦ PAK DEVELOPING N-BOMB ♦

Maastricht Treaty Approved

AT a long-awaited referendum on September 20, French voters narrowly approved the controversial Maastricht Treaty on European union. The course of events in regard to the Treaty was watched anxiously by the world, especially Western capitals. The French President had staked his future on a 'yes' vote. "It's a victory for Europe", said Education and Culture Minister Jack Lang.

French TV estimated the out-

come at 51-49 per cent in favour of the treaty, while another TV channel projected the result at 51.5 to 48.5. Approval of the treaty, after a bitter campaign, keeps alive the European Community's hopes for political and economic union that could elevate it to super-power status.

Defeat of the treaty could have unleashed renewed turmoil in world financial markets, damaged the stature of French and other European leaders who promoted the accord and forced the European community

has only 0.8 per cent of its total imports. Even this small share will be gravely at risk as the unified market of 1992, for reasons of logistics, technology, quality and costs, looks to the advanced Asian economies and the developing East European nations in preference to India.

India's low economic and political rating in the new Europe was sharply in evidence during Dr Manmohan Singh's recent mission on economic diplomacy to London. The EC's engrossing preoccupations with Yugoslavia, Eastern Europe and lately, famine-stricken Somalia and sub-Saharan Africa, left little room, for appreciation for India's liberalisation programme.

The growing introspection in an already insular Europe already seems likely to endanger GATT's Uruguay round of trade liberalisation. Indeed, what is being lost sight of in the present debate is that the emerging trading blocs of NAFTA and the European Community run counter to the GATT principle of free trade. Unless they move swiftly, India and other developing Asian economies stand to suffer.

"White Paper" on Tibet

THE Chinese Government issued in the third week of September, a "White Paper" on Tibet and declared that it will not make the slightest concession to demands for Tibetan independence. The paper said "so long as the Dalai Lama can give up his divisive stand and recognise that Tibet is an inalienable part of China, the Central Government is willing to hold talks at any time with him." It also listed China's charges against him.

This is the third White Paper issued by the Chinese Government in a year, after the one on human rights in November last year and another on criminal reforms in August this year. The Chinese leaders had since 1980 met a number of delegations sent by the Dalai Lama but the contacts between his emissaries and China yielded no results.

The paper said the senior leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping, had posed the question whether Beijing will engage in dialogue with Tibet as a State or as a part of China and that he had laid down the criterion that it was a part of China. The claim that a large number of Han Chinese had migrated to Tibet, turning Tibetans into a minority there was "merely a lie". It cited census figures to show that there was a net increase of 1,196 million people in Tibet between 1950 to 1990. The note rejected the Dalai Lama's contention that geographically Tibet extended far beyond its present boundaries and includes areas inhabited by the Tibetans in Sichuan, Qinghai and other places, making a total population of six million. "This so-called 'Tibet major' is merely a conspiracy hatched by imperialists in an attempt to carve up China", the paper said.

The paper was silent on the treatment meted out to Tibetans during the chaotic Cultural Revolution between 1966-76 when large-scale destruction was reportedly carried out, much to the chagrin of pro-Beijing Tibetan leaders such as the late Panchen Lama.

Stage set for Democracy in S. Africa

FOLLOWING summit talks between President F.W. de Klerk of South Africa and Dr Nelson Mandela, African National Congress Chief, the way has apparently been cleared for holding fair and free elections and the establishment of a truly popular government comprising a majority of Blacks.

As a first step the South African Government has released many political prisoners and extremists. It is expected that most of the prisoners will be set free by November 15.

There has been large-scale violence in South Africa in recent months, but the talks between the African National Congress leader Dr Mandela and Mr de Klerk on September 28 helped to establish cordiality

Much of the violence, which

caused considerable loss of life, involved African National Congress and Inkatha supporters in a bloody power struggle. It was in view of the improvement in the situation that the Government of India finally sanctioned the Indian Cricket team historic tour of South Africa.

U.S.-Israel Military Pact

THE U.S. intends to provide Israel an unspecified number of Black Hawk helicopters, place upto \$ 300 million worth of equipment for use in an emergency by Israeli or U.S. troops, and forge new ties to ensure that the West Asian country retains its military edge.

U.S. and Israeli officials are discussing how to tie Israel into a Global Protection System that would guard against missile attacks through a combination of intelligence-sharing and ground and space-based early warning systems. Also being considered is improved cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries. The U.S. may make the current \$ 1.8 billion worth of military aid yearly to Israel a long-term commitment as desired by Israel. The two sides have set up a working group to examine ways of expanding high technology military cooperation between them.

The announcement from the White House came on the eve of the Jewish new year. The majority of American Jews generally vote for the Democrats but the White House is making an extra effort this year to get them change their support.

The helicopters are expected to be provided under a 1990 legislation which allows Israel to draw down 700 million dollars worth of U.S. weaponry in Europe that is no longer needed there because of the end of the Cold War. The U.S. already has about \$ 100 million worth of equipment pre-positioned in Israel.

Yugoslavia out of UN

THE U.N. General Assembly on September 23 expelled rump Yugoslavia, now comprising Serbia and Montenegro, by an overwhelm-

ing majority and asked it to apply afresh for membership.

Even as the Assembly was expelling the Belgrade regime, the United States called for the UN War Crimes Commission to verify the evidence it has collected of Serbian crimes against other ethnic groups in detention camps in Bosnia. This could ultimately lead to the trial of Serbian leaders on war crimes.

The 179-member Assembly accepted the recommendation of the Security Council to debar Serbia and Montenegro from participation in its work by 126 affirmative votes to six, with 26 abstentions. India was among the countries which abstained. However, getting fresh membership may not be easy for Belgrade as it has to be first cleared by the Security Council where any of the five permanent members—U.S.A., Britain, Russia, France and China—could veto it.

There are already indications that the US would use veto unless Belgrade falls in line with their demands to stop aiding Serbs said to be indulging in violence in other former Yugoslav republics, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A last-minute appeal by the Yugoslav Premier, Mr Milan Panic, to allow it to continue failed to impress a vast majority of members who apparently were in a mood to punish Belgrade for its support to Serb rebels in Bosnia and Herzegovina said to be waging a campaign of "ethnic cleansing".

Meanwhile, the Yugoslav Premier has pointed out that the Security Council has overstepped its competence with the resolution calling for the expulsion of federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

India for use of force: India favours the use of force in Bosnia-Herzegovina solely under the United Nations control and supervision and feels that the Security Council enjoys no authority to recommend to the General Assembly that Serbia and Montenegro's participation be withdrawn or suspended.

U.N. Sets up "War Crimes" Panel

ON October 7 the U.N. Security Council unanimously resolved to establish a "War Crimes Commission" to examine charges of severe human rights violations in the erstwhile Yugoslavia and virtually set the stage for trial of those found guilty.

The decision came in the wake of campaigns of ethnic cleansing by Serbs to gain territory during which they drove out hundreds of thousands of Muslim and Croats from their houses and allegedly raped women. The Serbs are also accused of killing hundreds of Muslims in detention camps, though they deny the charge.

The Commission will include impartial experts who will examine and analyse the information submitted to the U.N. and also such facts as they obtain through their own investigation or through efforts of persons and bodies other than the U.N. The Secretary-General, Dr Boutros Ghali, has been asked to name the experts.

Defence pact against Serbia

THE President of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina announced that they had signed a mutual self-defence pact on behalf of their republics to fight off Serbian aggression. The agreement was announced just before the Security Council's sub-committee on the Yugoslav arms embargo was to meet to consider the case of a plane-load of Iranian weapons bound for Bosnia, which Croatia had impounded.

The practical effect of a Croatia-Bosnia defence pact was however, questionable, since the Serb militias and the Serb-led Yugoslav army have vastly superior weaponry, especially tanks and artillery. In addition, the two republics agreed to jointly ask the Security Council to lift the arms embargo on Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, where the fiercest fighting still rages. More than 10,000 people in each republic have been killed in the fighting.

Appearing at a news conference with the Croatian President, Mr Franjo Tudjman, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic conceded that he had found no sympathy among Security Council members for lifting the arms embargo against his country.

The new agreement is an expansion of a July 9 pact between Croatia and Bosnia, which applied mainly to defence of their border areas. The accord commits the two countries to mutual defence across their entire territories and to set up a "joint committee to coordinate defensive efforts until aggression has been stopped entirely."

China-U.S. Tension

CHINA will not attend the United Nations Security Council permanent members' meeting on arms control and will not buy US wheat in retaliation to Washington's decision to sell F-16 fighter aircraft to Taiwan. Beijing will also retaliate if punitive tariffs are imposed on Chinese exports in the current trade dispute.

This was stated by a Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin, in the third week of September in response to queries, relating to disputes that have mushroomed in recent weeks in Sino-US relations.

The sale decision "totally violated the common guidelines agreed upon in meetings of the five powers on arms control issues, which contains the principle that arms transfers should not be used to interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign State, the spokesman said. If the U.S. insisted on the F-16 deal, China would also stop importing American wheat. He also made it clear that the US side would be held "fully responsible for the deterioration of Sino-US relations", and the future of the relations depends on whether the U.S. revokes its "wrong decisions".

On Sino-US trade issues, he said Beijing will impose punitive tariffs on 4 billion dollars worth of US exports to China if Washington carried out its threat of imposing tariffs on \$ 3.9 billion worth of Chinese goods. The

US reason for announcing punitive tariffs was the perceived lack of progress on the part of China in the ongoing discussions on barriers to the Chinese market for US goods. China and the United States have so far held eight rounds of talks on market access. The Chinese spokesman said an agreement would "require common efforts of the two sides" and added, "We hope that the US side will endeavour to solve the existing differences with flexible, cooperative and realistic approach."

Suspense in U.S. Poll

THE Ross Perot factor has again entered the crucial U.S. Presidential race. Mr Perot's re-entry has undeniably produced consternation all around. The Texas billionaire had dropped out of the contest in mid-July, generating sighs of relief among both Republicans and Democrats, on September 29. Mr Perot and his supporters organised a nationally televised show in Dallas, Texas, where emissaries from the Bush and Clinton campaigns came to court his support.

The victory prospects of both President George Bush and Mr Bill Clinton would be affected by the Perot re-entry, although poll figures suggest that Mr Clinton's support base would suffer a sharper erosion. As it is, Mr Bush has apparently narrowed the gap between himself and Mr Clinton, from around 15 points to 10.

Mr Perot himself, running on an independent ticket, is likely to secure no more than 14 per cent of the vote, according to the poll. He can build from that base but it will be virtually impossible for him to reach a winning figure in the weeks that remain till election day. However, his presence can harm both the party candidates unpredictably, as the Clinton and Bush camps are well aware. That is why aides from the two camps called on Mr Perot recently. Later, they admitted that significant differences remained between their respective programmes and Mr Perot's ideas.

Mr Perot's foremost economic priority is deficit cutting. Mr Bush would like the fiscal deficit to be reduced but he is unwilling to do it the Perot way which is by increasing the petrol tax and cutting social welfare benefits. But both Mr Bush and Mr Perot believe in a balanced budget amendment which would make eliminating budget deficits mandatory for lawmakers.

China-S. Korea Summit

THE first Sino-South Korean summit ended on September 30 with a joint press communique declaring that the establishment of bilateral relations was of "great significance to peace and development in Asia and the world as a whole". The communique was issued at the end of the Beijing leg of President Roh Tae Woo's four-day visit to China, taking place a month after the establishment of diplomatic relations. It marked the end of four decades of tensions.

Mr Roh and his spokesmen had made it clear earlier that they regard the suspected development of nuclear weapons by the North as a major issue and wanted Chinese persuasion of Pyongyang to open up all nuclear facilities to mutual inspection.

The communique recorded China's hope that denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula will be achieved, as also the Korean people's aspiration of reunification. The process of relaxation of tension in the peninsula should continue, the South Korean and Chinese leaders said. They were of the view that strengthened cooperation in north-east Asia and the Asia-Pacific region will be conducive to developing common prosperity and in that connection, agreed to cooperate in regional organisations.

The two sides today entered into wide-ranging inter-governmental agreements in the areas of trade, investment protection, establishment of the joint commission on economic trade and technological cooperation and scientific and technological cooperation.

Pak developing N.-bombs

LAST year it was reported that Pakistan already had 13 crude devices in its nuclear arsenal. Pakistan is now trying to develop sophisticated atomic or hydrogen bombs, according to a leading scientific journal. However, without a proven design for a significantly more sophisticated fission weapon, a boosted fission weapon, or a thermonuclear device, it is doubtful whether Islamabad could develop one without full-scale testing.

A study, based on declassified documents and other international studies on Pakistan's clandestine nuclear weapons programme, says assuming that a nuclear device requires about 15 kg of weapon-grade uranium, Pakistan's Kahuta nuclear enrichment plant has the capability to produce uranium for three to six devices a year. The article, "Pakistan's bomb out of the Closet" says Pakistan had probably produced between 100 and 200 kg of weapon-grade uranium.

Second Plant: Pakistan is reported to be building a second enrichment plant at Golra, near Islamabad. Pakistan has completed a small reprocessing plant called "New Labs" at the Pinstech complex near Rawalpindi. The "New Labs" is based on blueprints delivered by France, with key equipment bought from a variety of suppliers. "New Labs" seemed to be large enough to allow for expansion of its reprocessing capacity.

Pakistan has procured a wide array of nuclear equipment and has a programme to produce large amounts of nuclear grade graphite. Pakistan has had Chinese assistance in building a research reactor. Experts say without a much larger reactor, Pakistan could separate only tiny amounts of plutonium from the small quantities of fuel it could legally withdraw from safeguards. Like Iraq, Pakistan is simultaneously developing the ability to produce fissile materials while trying to master weapon design and production.

THE EXAMINER'S GUESS QUESTIONS

Q. The third summit of the Group of 15 developing countries (G-15) will be held in November 1992 at which place?

Ans. Senegal.

Q. Who is the present Governor of Reserve Bank of India?

Ans. S. Venkitaramanan.

Q. Recently the Supreme Court had ordered the Speaker of which State Legislative Assembly to appear before the court in a contempt matter?

Ans. Dr H Borobabu Singh, Speaker of Manipur Legislative Assembly.

Q. What is "Indira Vimaan"?

Ans. It is the world's only existing elephant chariot (*Hathi rath*). The two-storeyed chariot is languishing in a specially built garage of the Jaipur royal family. It made its last journey about 65 years ago. The chariot used to be taken out in a procession once a year on the day following Dussehra.

Q. What were the aggregate deposits of scheduled commercial banks in 1991-92?

Ans. Rs 38,216.

Q. What tax rate has been fixed for foreign institutional investment in the Indian capital market on dividend and interest income earned from such investment?

Ans. 20 per cent flat rate. Tax on long-term capital gains (one year or more) will be 10 per cent.

Q. Name the President of World Bank?

Ans. Lewis Preston.

Q. Which district enjoys the monopoly in the commercial production of *mehendi* (rosemary) in India?

Ans. Pali district in Rajasthan.

Q. What does Chilika project pertain to?

Ans. Chilika project is a joint venture between government of Orissa and Tatas for shrimp farming. There has been a controversy going

on regarding this project. Shrimp farming is said to have a negative impact on the environment.

Q. Who is the director of the film "Little Buddha"?

Ans. Bernardo Bertolucci, famous Italian director. He is known for his film "Last Emperor".

Q. What important event took place on October 15, 1932?

Ans. JRD Tata heralded the birth of civil aviation in India with his epoch making flight from Karachi to Bombay.

Q. What does Maastrich treaty envisage?

Ans. It envisages a political and monetary union of Europe.

Q. Name the President of European Commission?

Ans. Jacques Delors.

Q. Name the first hydro-electric project of Northern India?

Ans. Shanan power house, located at Joginder Nagar, Himachal Pradesh. It was built under the Uhl river project scheme.

Q. With which country has India recently signed an extradition treaty?

Ans. Britain. The treaty will ensure that Britain no longer shelters anti-India extremists operating from British territory. The treaty replaces the ineffective fugitive offenders Act, hitherto governing extradition arrangements between Commonwealth countries.

Q. Name the first woman to become head of the Union Public Service Commission?

Ans. Rose Milian Bathaw.

Q. During 1981-1991 which State witnessed the highest population growth rate?

Ans. Nagaland (56.86 per cent).

Q. What is the purpose of Over The Counter Exchange of India (OTCEI)?

Ans. The exchange has been set up for trading in shares of small companies.

Q. Which Indian playback singer completed 50 golden years of palyback singing in 1992?

Ans. Lata Mangeshkar.

Q. What does "Operation Tiger" relate to?

Ans. It relates to the offensive against the Kashmir militants.

Q. President of which Latin American country was removed from office recently for six months by the parliament on charge of abuse of office and corruption?

Ans. Brazil's President, Fernando Collor de Mello.

Q. What name has been given to New Delhi-Bombay AC Express (2953/2954)?

Ans. August Kranti Rajdhani Express.

Q. What is radio paging?

Ans. It is a one-way communication that permits a person to be on the move with a guarantee that he could be anywhere the facility is available. On October 2, 1992 Bombay became the first city to have a modern paging system.

Q. Which day was celebrated as World Habitat Day?

Ans. October 5.

Q. Which year will be celebrated as *Rashtriya Chetna Varsh*?

Ans. 1993. The year marks centenary of Swami Vivekanand's *Bharat Parikrama* which climaxed in his epochal speech at the Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893.

Q. The teleserial *Bharat Ka Lal* is based on life of which historical personality?

Ans. Former Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Q. What is Sotheby?

Ans. It is internationally known auction company.

Q. Who is Ms Medha Patkar?

Ans. She is the leader of the *Narmada Bachao Andolan*.

Q. Which year has been declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Indigenous People?

Ans. 1992-93.

SPORTS

GAMES

Paralympic Games

The 1992 Paralympic Games (Olympics of disabled athletes) ended with a flourish on September 15, 1992 at Barcelona, Spain.

The USA finished as the top medal-winners with 176 overall medals, 76 of the gold. Germany was second, followed by UK.

The event was as successful as the Barcelona Olympics. It also helped in creating awareness about the disabled. The next games will be held at Atlanta in 1996.

ATHLETICS

World Cup

Nigeria's Sunday Ba anchored the African men's 4 x 400 metres team to a triumphant victory as Africa won the Athletics World Cup for the first time.

The women's event went to the CIS, competing for the last time as Unified team.

Third Asian Marathon Championship

Eduards Nabunone of host Indonesia led the men while Sunita Anand Godara of India took the women's title at the third Asian marathon championship.

BILLIARDS

World professional championship

India's Geet Sethi confirmed his world number one status in exemplary fashion by demolishing defending champion Mike Russell of England by a massive margin of 1,811 points to win his maiden world professional billiards crown. The championship was held in Bombay.

Earlier Geet Sethi shattered his own world record break of 736 when he compiled a stupendous run of

1,276 on his 25th visit, spread over two sessions in 80 minutes, against English veteran Bob Close in their quarter-final match. This break was the best in the world billiards in the last six decades.

BOXING

World Boxing Council super lightweight title

Undefeated Julio Cesar Chavez of Mexico administered a savage beating to Hector Camacho of Puerto Rico to retain his World Boxing Council super lightweight title.

CRICKET

Duleep Trophy

North Zone retained the Duleep Trophy by virtue of their 171-run first innings lead over Central Zone.

Deodhar Trophy

East Zone defeated North Zone by one wicket to win the Deodhar trophy—their first-ever major championship.

Irani Trophy

Rest of India won the Irani trophy defeating Delhi by an innings and 122 runs. Right-arm leg-spinner, Anil Kumble, was the main wrecker of Delhi. He finished with record match-figures of 13 wickets for 138 runs.

Kumble also broke the previous best bowling record of Uttar Pradesh's Gopal Sharma who claimed 12 wickets for 202 runs against Tamil Nadu in 1988-89.

World Sixes Title

Pakistan extended their domination of limited over cricket by beating India in the final of the first International World Sixes tournament, played in Hong Kong.

Each team comprised of six players.

Azhar retained Captain

The national selectors headed by Gundappa Viswanath retained Mohammed Azharuddin to lead India on the twin tour to Zimbabwe and South Africa. Former Indian skipper, Ajit Wadekar has been appointed the cricket manager.

The other members of the team are: Ravi Shastri (Vice-Capt), Ajay Jadeja, W.V. Raman, Sanjay Manjrekar, Sachin Tendulkar, Pravin Amre, Kapil Dev, Manoj Prabhakar, Javagal Srinath, Subroto Banerjee, Chetan Sharma, Venkatapathy Raju, Anil Kumble, Kiran More, and Vijay Yadav.

HOCKEY

Women's Inter-Nations Cup tournament

France defeated Scotland 5-4 via tie-breaker to bag the championship. India finished third. The tournament was held in Singapore.

KABADDI

National Women's championship

Indian Railways won the 40th National women's Kabaddi championship for the ninth consecutive time by defeating Major Ports 24-16.

SWIMMING

48th Senior National Championship

In the men's section the overall championship was won by Railways. The women's championship was won by Karnataka. International Sebastian Xavier of Railways was declared individual champion in men's section and Sangita Rao clinched the women's individual championship.

Karnataka were declared the overall champions. The tournament was held at Bhopal.

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Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

AJSU: All Jharkhand Students Union.

AVASIS: Abridged Visual Approach Slope Indicator System.

CCPA: Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs.

CHEER: Children's Enrichment Experiment through Radio.

CSD: Commission on Sustainable Development.

EMU: (European) Economic and Monetary Union.

ERM: (European) Exchange Rate Mechanism.

FII: Foreign Institutional Investors.

GSTP: Global System of Trade Preferences.

ICDS: Integrated Child Development Service.

IREP: Integrated Rural Energy Planning.

JMM: Jharkhand Mukti Morcha.

JPP: Jharkhand People's Party.

NRI: Non-resident Indians.

OCB: Overseas Corporate Bodies.

OTCEI: Over the Counter Exchange of India.

OTEC: Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion.

PTA: Preferential Trading Arrangement.

RAF: Rapid Action Force.

SSP: Sardar Sarover Project.

TPD: Trade Policy Division.

AWARDS

Jamnalal Bajaj awards, 1992

For outstanding contribution towards the upliftment and welfare of women and children: Shalini Moghe, Director of Bal Niketan Sangh, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

For outstanding contribution in the field of constructive work: Prof Thakurdas Bang Gopuri of Wardha, Maharashtra.

For the application of science and technology for rural development: K. Vishawanathan, founder-director Mitraniketan Vellanad Trivandrum, Kerala.

International award for promoting Gandhian values outside India: Dr Homer A. Jack of USA.

Each award carries a citation, a trophy and Rs one lakh in cash or its equivalent in foreign exchange for the international award.

United Nations Population award, 1992

MR JRD Tata and the New York based Population Council share the UN Population award, 1992.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards, 1992

For biological sciences: Dr Dipankar Chatterji of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad and Dr K. Dharmalingam of Madurai Kamaraj University.

For Chemical sciences: Dr Sumit Bhaduri of Alchemie Research Centre, Thane and Dr S. Ramasesha of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

For earth, atmosphere, ocean and planetary sciences: Dr S.R. Shetye of National Institute of Oceanography, Goa.

For engineering sciences: Dr V.S. Borkar of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

For mathematics: Dr Maithili Sharan of Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi.

For medicine: Dr N.K. Mehra of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Dr U.N. Das of Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad.

For physical sciences: Dr S.R. Shenoy of University of Hyderabad and Dr Vikram Kumar of Solid State Physics Laboratory, New Delhi.

Tansen award, 1992

TWO Hindustani music stalwarts, Mr Ramrao Naik of Bangalore and Pandit Sharat Chandra Akolkar of Bombay share the award.

Tansen award has been instituted by the government of Madhya Pradesh and carries a cash prize of Rs one lakh and a plaque.

Kabir award for promotion of communal harmony, 1991

MR Parshuram Pandey of village Tangra Khurd in Giridih district of Bihar and Mr J.C. Paliwal of Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh have been given the award.

Instituted by the government of India in April 1990 the national award is given every year to those who display physical and moral courage in the face of danger to their own lives in saving life and property of members of other community during communal riots.

Lata Mangeskar award, 1992

THIS award has been given to light classical singer, Manik Verma. This award has been instituted by the government of Maharashtra to mark the completion of 50 years of singing by Lata Mangeskar. It carries a cash prize of Rs one lakh.

Lord Erskine award

BRTAIN'S Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) has given this award to Mrs Maneka Gandhi for her dedication and perseverance in the field of animal welfare.

AVIATION

Air India to revert to 'Centaur' logo

AIR-India "Centaur" returned to its old home on top of the airline's headquarters at Nariman

Point on October 15, the day on which it completed 60 years.

The majestic "Centaur", which had been a symbol of Air-India for several years till it was replaced with the "Sun" logo on October 15, 1989, has once again become a part of the sky-line of the city where the airline was born.

The "Centaur" is a mythical horse with a human body. The "Centaur" was formally chosen by Mr J.R.D. Tata, Air-India's former chairman and "adopted" by Professor Walter Langhammer, a well-known artist and former art director of The Times of India, Bombay.

In place of the "Centaur", the "Sun" was selected as the logo because it symbolised the "new dawn" and was an aid to navigation from time immemorial. The "Sun" was symmetrical oval, the 24 rays symbolising the 24 hours of the day.

But the much-publicised new corporate identity did not have desired marketing effect. Therefore, once again a need was felt to bring back the "Centaur".

CONFERENCES

Adivasi meet in Kerala

MANANTHAVADI, a small town in Kerala's Waynad district was host to an "Adivasi sangamam" for eight days from October 12.

October 12 invokes a potent memory in the history of tribal resistance against oppressive powers. It was on this date in 1802, under the leadership of Thalakkal Chandul, that the Adivasis of Waynad fought against the British and destroyed the Panamaram fort, 10 Km from Waynad.

The "Sangamam" took place at a time when the United Nations had declared 1992-93 as the 'International Year of Indigenous People'.

This "Sangamam", helped the adivasi communities of India to exchange views and interact with each other.

DAYS

World Tourism Day

THE World Tourism Day was celebrated on September 27. The

theme was: "Tourism—A path towards social and economic integration of continents, an avenue of discovery between people".

The theme was adopted by the general assembly of the World Tourism Organisation at Madrid, Spain.

DEFENCE

Pilotless target aircraft

PILOTLESS target aircraft *Lakshya* will soon be offered to the Army, Navy and Air Force for their evaluation prior to induction.

Three successful flights of the indigenously developed *Lakshya* were carried out by the Defence Research and Development Organisation at the Interim test range, Chandipore, on September 16, 17 and 21, 1992.

Lakshya has been designed as a practice target system for live firing of guns and missiles.

At present, the Indian Air Force uses pilotless target aircraft, *Chukor*, of American company Northrop.

Lakshya is flown by a remote controller, from ground, to make realistic target presentations. It is manoeuvred almost like a fighter aircraft. It carries a radar and infrared signature enhancement devices to simulate attacking aircraft. At the end of a mission it is recovered by a parachute. It can be re-used ten times.

NUCLEAR POWER

Indigenous fuel available for Tarapur

ACCORDING to Dr P.K. Iyengar, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), India has the capacity to produce its own enriched uranium to keep the Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) running for next 15 years. The indigenous fuel will be required in case France refuses to supply fuel.

After the expiry of the 1963 Indo-US agreement on TAPS in 1993, India will be free to reprocess the spent fuel from Tarapur. Infact there is enough un-safeguarded plutonium available from the reprocessed spent fuel from Rajasthan and Madras reactors.

The Department of Atomic Energy has in operation a secret pilot

centrifuge enrichment facility at Ratanhalli, 20 km from Mysore.

The two Tarapur reactors require about 20 tonnes of enriched uranium every year and this is available from indigenous sources.

PERSONS

Hidayatullah, Mohammad

FORMER Vice-President of India, Mr Hidayatullah died on September 18, 1992. He was 87.

He had the distinction of becoming the youngest government pleader in the country in 1942, the youngest Advocate-General in 1943, the youngest Chief Justice of High Court in 1954 and the youngest Judge of the Supreme Court in 1958. In 1968 he became the Chief Justice of India.

He was born on December 17, 1905 at Betul, in Madhya Pradesh. His scholarly achievements brought him many honours. He was twice sworn-in as acting President. Once in 1969 and second time in 1982.

A man of cosmopolitan outlook, he married a Hindu, Pushpa Shah, in 1948. Theirs was one of the widely-admired Hindu-Muslim marriages.

Mansur, Mallikarjun

NOTED Hindustani classical music (vocal) maestro, Dr Mallikarjun Mansur died on September 12, 1992 at the age of 82.

Dr Mansur occupied a rare place in the world of classical music having combined the skills of two great schools of music—the Gwalior and Atrali-Jaipur *gharanas*. In the latter he was, perhaps, the only exponent among his contemporaries. It was mainly due to his blend of the styles of both the *gharanas* that his renderings were gitted with rare talent. He could present almost every *raga* in his own distinctive and inimitable style.

PLACES

Ciskei

THE Ciskei black homeland of South Africa was in the news when on September 7, 1992 the Ciskeian security forces shot and killed at least 23 African National Congress (ANC) supporters who were attempting to march on the nominally independent, South African

homeland's capital, Bisho

The bloodbath threatened to plunge South Africa into a major crisis and block efforts to revive stalled talks between the ANC and the white government on ending apartheid.

Mozambique

FOR last sixteen years Mozambique was plagued by civil war. On October 4, 1992 the government of President Joaquim Chissano and the rebel Mozambican National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) signed a peace agreement declaring an end to fighting that had torn the country apart since independence in 1975

Mozambique is the old Portuguese East Africa. The Mozambique channel of the Indian ocean bounds it in the east. The majority of the population belongs to the *Bantu* tribe. The economy is based on agriculture

Maputo is the capital of Mozambique.

PROJECTS

Ocean energy power plant

A 100-mw offshore power plant, the first in the country to use ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) technology, is planned to be built off the east coast of Tamil Nadu. The project, estimated to cost \$250 million, has been approved in principle by the Centre.

The project will be set-up with help of the Sea Solar Power Inc of USA. It will initially set-up a 25 mw plant and then scale it up to 100 mw.

The project appears attractive since the US firm will bear the entire risk if the project fails. However, it is insisting on a commitment from the Tamil Nadu government to buy, in dollars, the entire power for 20 years, the expected life of the plant.

Some experimental OTEC plants including a 5mw plant off Hawaii are currently functioning but commercial development of the technology is yet to be undertaken.

Apart from power, the project will also produce potable water which could be distributed through the public water supply system.

RESEARCH

Breakthrough in mapping human genome

BIOLOGISTS have taken a giant leap toward with a big breakthrough in mapping the human genome—the blueprint that carries all the information needed to make a human being.

Mapping the genome is such a complicated and vast undertaking that it has been called biology's equivalent of "landing on the Moon".

Mapping of the genome will help identify abnormal genes responsible for some 4,000 genetic disorders.

SPACE RESEARCH

Where do comets come from?

SOME astronomers have discovered a small planet like object beyond Pluto which they say might be an answer to the question: "Where do the comets come from?"

The reddish object, 124 miles in diameter, is cruising at a distance 42 times as far from the sun as earth. Its discoverers, David Jewitt of the University of Hawaii and Jane Luu of the University of California, believe it confirms the existence of the hypothetical Kuiper belt, home of would-be comets.

UN

Yugoslavia expelled from UN

THE United Nations General Assembly has expelled Yugoslavia, now comprising Serbia and Montenegro, by an overwhelming majority and asked it to apply afresh for the membership. This has been in retaliation to the Serb crimes against other ethnic groups in Bosnia.

MISCELLANY

First floating museum in Calcutta

THE Calcutta Port Trust has procured two obsolete paddle steamers from the public sector undertaking, Central Inland Water Transport Corporation, for setting up the floating museum. It is said to be the first of its kind in the country. The museum will cost Rs 95 lakh.

The international maritime history with rare documents, books, maps, charts, photographs and relics

would be displayed in the permanent exhibition along with various artefacts and models, both working and non-working.

The floating museum will have different galleries like world maritime tradition, maritime traditions in India, functions of a port, evolution of the ships and marine crafts, the saga of Indian ports and evolution of cargo handling functions.

Maritime academy at Paradeep okayed

THE Union surface transport ministry has cleared the proposal for a maritime academy on the east coast to be set up near Paradeep port in Orissa.

The academy, which will have a campus area of 35 acres, will take up training of ship ratings in the first phase followed by training facilities for officer level personnel for merchant shipping.

There has been an increase in the demand for ship ratings. But the eastern coast had no institution to build up skilled personnel base.

August Kranti Express

THE New Delhi-Bombay AC Express (2953/2954) has been renamed as August Kranti Rajdhani Express with effect from October 2, 1992.

The renaming of the train has been effected to mark the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Quit India Movement, popularly known as August 1942 Kranti Movement.

The New Delhi-Bombay AC Express was introduced with effect from July 1, 1991 as the duplicate Rajdhani Express. It has been running at a gap of 40 minutes after the main New Delhi-Bombay Central Rajdhani Express.

IAF to begin women pilots training soon

THE Indian Air Force will start training the first batch of women pilots in early 1993. Due to high risk, women will not be allowed to handle combat aircraft till they prove themselves on transport and helicopters as excellent aircrew.

Women fighter pilots may be new in India, but in England women are already piloting Royal Air Force combat aircraft.

Initially, the selected women pilots will fly transport aircraft like IL-76, Avros and helicopters.

In the beginning, commissioning of the women pilots will be for ten years and will be called short service commission. On expiry of this period she will be free to resign. But if willing to continue, extension of service or conversion to permanent commission would be considered for deserving officers.

Apart from women pilots, air force is also going to induct girls in its technical branch, putting them at par with their counterparts.

The air force is the first defence wing to offer women an active role in defence of the country.

CHEER for children

THE centre in collaboration with governments of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh, launched a new programme called Children's Enrichment Experiment through Radio (CHEER) from October 2, 1992.

The programme will be broadcast from All India Radio (AIR) stations at Visakhapatnam, Rohtak, Cuttack and Lucknow, specially for children under six years of age, attending *anganwadi* centres under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme.

The programme will be beamed during *anganwadi hours* for the benefit of children attending the *anganwadis*.

Rapid Action Force operational

THE newly-formed Rapid Action Force (RAF), the 'Zero-response-time' central outfit for tackling communal riots, became operational on October 7, 1992.

The force would initially be located at 10 communally sensitive areas—Delhi, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Varanasi, Aligarh, Ghaziabad, Jaipur, Meerut, Allahabad and at Darbhanga or Jamshedpur in Bihar. It would be

expanded further as and when the need will arise.

The 8,000-strong force, a central police organisation, would be under the operational command of the CRPF. It has been set up by drawing personnel from the 1.25 lakh strong CRPF.

The RAF would be equipped with sophisticated weapons including shock batons, modern teargas shells, stringer grenades and rubber bullets.

The new force is the result of a government decision in 1992 to remodel and reorient 10 battalions of the CRPF to create a special force to specifically deal with communal riots.

Disparities in road length

THERE are wide disparities in road length in relation to area and population in the country with only 11 States and four Union Territories having more than the national average of road length per 100 sq km

area.

Among the States, Kerala takes the top position with 322.5 Km per 100 sq Km area followed by Tamil Nadu (128.4 Km), Orissa (125.6 Km), Assam (82 Km), Karnataka (65.9 Km), Maharashtra (67.3 Km), West Bengal (64.9 Km), Uttar Pradesh (62.5 Km) and Haryana (58.7 Km).

The study by the Birla Economic Research Foundation states that among the Union Territories, Delhi takes the top spot with 1,284 Km per 100 sq Km area followed by Chandigarh (1,260.5 Km), Pondicherry (545.5 Km) and Dadar and Nagar Havel (64.2 Km).

Jammu and Kashmir ranks last with 5.9 Km, because almost three-fourth of its area is uninhabited, or mountainous or snow-bound terrain.

The road network in the country increased from 3.976 lakh Km to 18.434 lakh Km between 1950-51 and 1987-88 registering an annual growth of 4.2 per cent.

Contd from page 291

SQUASH

World Open title

Japsher Khan of Pakistan became World Open champion for the fourth time after beating Chris Dittmar in the final played at Johannesburg, S. Africa.

End of a golden era

Jahangir Khan's decision to retire from squash marks the end of a golden era for a sport he has dominated for much of his 12-year career.

The 28-year-old Pakistani, World Open champion six times and British Open winner for 10 years in a row, is one of an elite group to become legends during their sporting career. In fact he achieved it by the age of 22.

Jahangir's record of over 500 consecutive victories between April 1981 and November 1986 was remarkable by any standards. In the fiercely competitive game of squash, it was incredible. And during that period of five years, seven months and one day he was only once extended to five games.

TENNIS

US Open championship

Stefan Edberg retained his U.S. Open title by defeating Pete Sampras 3-6, 6-4, 7-6, 6-2.

Monica Seles put to rest questions about her form and her health and reinforced her status as the top women's player in the world by beating Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in straight sets to retain her US Open title.

Women's Doubles: Gigi Fernandez (US) and Natalia Zvereva (Belarus).

Men's Doubles: Paul McNamee (Australia) and Tomas Smid (Czech).

DAVIS CUP

India-Britain: India defeated Britain 4-1 to re-enter the Davis Cup elite world group of 16.

Switzerland-Brazil: Switzerland defeated Brazil to clinch a historic Swiss place in the Davis Cup final for the first time.

USA-Sweden: USA defeated Sweden to enter the Davis Cup final for the third consecutive year and 58th time overall.

Appointments Etc

Appointed; Elected Etc

Lennart Meri: He has been elected President of Estonia.

Itamar Franco: Vice-President of Brazil, he has been appointed acting President following suspension of President Collor de Mello by the Parliament.

Chuan Leekpai: Leader of the Democrat Party, he has been elected as the twentieth Prime Minister of Thailand.

Vijay Bhaskar Reddy: He is the new Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Siddharth Shankar Ray: He has been appointed India's Ambassador to USA.

M P M Menon: He has been appointed India's High Commissioner to Canada.

Ms Shyamala Cousik: She has been appointed India's Ambassador to Philippines.

Mrs Kamlesh Kumar: She has been appointed India's High Commissioner to Hong Kong.

Arif Qamran: He is India's Ambassador to Afghanistan.

Gopalswami Parthasarathy: He has been appointed India's Ambassador to Myanmar.

Y.M. Tewari: He is India's new Ambassador to Cyprus.

Aftab Setti: He has been appointed India's Ambassador to Greece.

K P. Fabian: He has been appointed India's Ambassador to Qatar.

Dr Gauri Shankar Rajhans: He has been appointed India's Ambassador to Vietnam.

A.N. Verma: He has been ap-

pointed Chairman of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC).

Mrs Rose Millan Bathew: She is the first woman Chairman of Union Public Service Commission.

Resigned

N. Janardhana Reddy: Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Fernando Collor de Mello: President of Brazil, he has been removed from office for six months as the Parliament voted to impeach him on charges of abuse of office and corruption.

Distinguished Visitors

Ranasinghe Premadasa: President of Sri Lanka.

Haji Hassanali Bolkiah: Sultan of Brunei.

Princess Anne: Member of British Royal family.

Do Muoi: General Secretary of Communist Party of Vietnam.

Died

Justice M. Hidayatullah: Former Vice-President of India and ex-Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

K.V.K. Sundaram: First Election Commissioner of India.

Pandit Malikarjun Mansoor: Renowned Hindustani Vocalist.

Dr A.R. Gopal Ayengar: Eminent scientist.

Tarachand Barjatya: Noted film producer.

Gerald Hanley: Irish novelist.

Ms Anutai Wagh: Educationist and outstanding social worker.

Ms Mehar Contractor: Renowned Puppeteer.

18—A full bench of the Andhra Pradesh High Court strikes down as unconstitutional the amendment to the Andhra Pradesh Educational Institutions Prohibition of Capital Fee Act, under which private managements of medical and engineering colleges were allowed to charge capitation fees for 50 per cent seats.

21—France votes in favour of Maastricht treaty.

22—India and Britain sign the historic extradition treaty.

23—Yugoslavia is expelled from U.N.

26—India seeks permanent seat in U.N. Security Council.

28—A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Airbus 300 crash near Kathmandu, Nepal, kills all 156 on board.

29—Mr N. Janardhana Reddy resigns as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

30—Brazil's President, Fernando Collor de Mello is removed from office for six months as the Parliament votes to impeach him of charges of corruption.

OCTOBER

2—Texas billionaire Ross Perot re-enters the US Presidential race.

4—Kuwait goes to polls after a gap of seven years.

—The Government of Mozambique and the rebels sign a peace agreement declaring an end to more than 16 years of fighting.

5—More than 200 people are killed as an Israeli Cargo Jet crashes into an apartment complex in Amsterdam.

6—Russian President Boris Yeltsin threatens to seize the disputed area of Georgia.

—Opposition in Kuwait wins majority.

7—Kuwaiti government, headed by Prime Minister and Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdallah Al Sabah, resigns.

8—Indian Air Force celebrates its diamond jubilee.

9—The death toll in communal clashes in Sitamarhi, near Patna, rises to 36. Indefinite curfew is imposed.

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

10—An all-party meeting on the Jharkhand issue, convened by the Bihar Chief Minister, fails to arrive at a consensus on creation of a separate State.

11—Over 1000 people are killed in

floods in Pakistan.

—An indefinite curfew is clamped in Shillong after a fresh spurt in violence.

14—The Indian capital markets are opened to foreign institutions.

15—Arson mars Jharkhand Bandh.

Quantitative Aptitude

The questions given below were set in the Railway Recruitment Board examinations held in Calcutta and other Centres on the 23rd February, 1992.

We are grateful to Shri Arvind Kumar Jha of Laheria Sarai (Dt. Darbhanga) for sending these questions.

- $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{3}{8} + ? = \frac{13}{16}$
(a) $\frac{5}{8}$ (b) $\frac{3}{16}$ (c) $\frac{2}{8}$ (d) $\frac{5}{16}$
(e) None of these
- $2\frac{6}{13} + 14\frac{7}{13} = 3\frac{14}{39}$
(a) 2 (b) -4 (c) 9 (d) -1
(e) None of these
- $\frac{4}{11}$ of $4\frac{1}{8}$ of Rs 15 = ?
(a) Rs 10.75 (b) Rs 35.50 (c) Rs 22.50
(d) Rs 15.60 (e) None of these
- $\frac{29}{105} + \frac{4}{35}$ of $1\frac{3}{4} - \frac{7}{11}$ of $3\frac{2}{3} + 8\frac{1}{6} = ?$
(a) 21 (b) $3\frac{2}{11}$ (c) $\frac{3}{11}$ (d) $\frac{2}{21}$
(e) None of these
- $2\frac{2}{3} \div 2.03$
 $\frac{-039.11}{232.92}$
(a) 7 (b) 2 (c) 5 (d) 4
(e) None of these
- $\frac{5}{7} [\frac{5}{7} - \frac{1}{2}] = \frac{?}{3}$
(a) 12 (b) 27 (c) 21 (d) 19
(e) None of these
- $\sqrt{\frac{49}{?}} = \frac{7}{27}$
(a) 4 (b) 189 (c) 196 (d) 729
(e) None of these
- $15 = 75\% \text{ of } ?$
(a) 10.25 (b) 10.5 (c) 25 (d) 20
(e) None of these
- $\frac{2}{3} : \frac{7}{8} :: \frac{4}{5} : ?$

- (a) $\frac{21}{20}$ (b) $\frac{20}{21}$ (c) $\frac{12}{25}$ (d) $\frac{2}{5}$
(e) None of these
- ? : Rs 2.25 :: 2.4 tonnes : 5 quintals
(a) Rs 108 (b) Rs 10.80 (c) Rs 1.08
(d) 1.80 (e) None of these
- 1.0% of 10% of 100 = ?
(a) 10 (b) 9 (c) .1 (d) 5
(e) None of these
- $(\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{3})(\sqrt{5} - \sqrt{3}) = ?$ approximately
(a) 5 (b) 3 (c) 2 (d) $\sqrt{2}$
(e) None of these
- Add : 6.006, .06, 60.6, 6.006, 60.06
(a) 142 (b) 142.732 (c) 132.832
(d) 132.732 (e) None of these
- What decimal of an hour is a second?
(a) .00099 (b) .00028 (c) .00027
(d) .00026 (e) None of these
- The difference between the place values of 7 and 3 in the number 527435 is:
(a) 5 (b) 4 (c) 45 (d) 6970
(e) None of these
- How many of the following are divisible by 12?
2328, 1548, 3316, 4556, 1236, 2432, 2664
(a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 7 (d) 4
(e) None of these
- If $x = 2$, $y = 3$, then what is the value of $3x^3 + 2y^3$?
(a) 30 (b) 18 (c) 78 (d) 42
(e) None of these
- By how much is the area of a square of side 5.3 cm decreased when its side is decreased by 3 cm.
(a) 2.3 sq m (b) 12.8 sq m (c) 22.8 sq m
(d) 2.28 sq m (e) None of these
- Ashok buys a book for Rs 43.75 and sells it for Rs 50. What is his gain per cent approximately?
(a) 41.3% (b) 14.3% (c) 13.6%
(d) 12.4% (e) None of these
- 40 men can dig a trench 32 metres long in 16 days. How many days will 60 men take to dig a trench 12 metres long?
(a) 4 (b) 16 (c) 8 (d) 20
(e) None of these
- If a train is running at the speed of 86.4 km/hr,

then how much distance will it cover in 10 minutes?

- (a) .014 km (b) 144 km
(c) 1.44 km (d) 14.4 km
(e) None of these

22. If two numbers are respectively 20% and 50% of a 3rd number, what % is the 1st number of the 2nd one?

- (a) 10 (b) 20
(c) 30 (d) 40
(e) None of these

23. A trader sells 9 bullocks and 7 cows for Rs 30,000 to a customer and to another customer he sells 6 bullocks and 13 cows at the same price for the same sum, then the price of a bullock is:

- (a) 2100 (b) 2400
(c) 300 (d) 3700
(e) None of these

24. At what rate per cent per annum simple interest a certain sum of money will become double in 8 years?

- (a) 5 (b) 8
(c) 10 (d) 12
(e) None of these

25. A man makes his upward journey @ 16 km/hr and downward journey @ 28 km/hr. What is his average speed in km/hr?

- (a) 32 (b) 56
(c) 22 (d) 21
(e) None of these

26. A number is increased by 10% and then reduced by 10%. The number:

- (a) does not change (b) decreases by 1%
(c) increases by .1% (d) increases by 1%
(e) None of these

27. A shopkeeper professes to sell his goods at cost price but uses a weight of 800 grams instead of 1 kg. Thus he makes a gain of.

- (a) 2% (b) 8%
(c) 20% (d) 25%
(e) None of these

28. In selling an article for Rs 76, there is a gain of 52%. The gain by selling that for Rs 74 is?

- (a) 50% (b) 48%
(c) 46% (d) 44%
(e) None of these

29. A number of school admission for computer course is increased by 15% every year. If the number of students in 1990 was 800, what is the expected number of students in 1992?

- (a) 920 (b) 1058
(c) 1040 (d) 1198
(e) None of these

30. By how much is four-fifth of 70 lesser than five-

seventh of 112?

- (a) 42 (b) 22
(c) 24 (d) 40
(e) None of these

31. Vijay gets 49% marks in an examination obtaining 294 marks. In the same examination, Pradeep scores 372 marks. His percentage of marks is:

- (a) 55% (b) 60% (c) 62% (d) 65%

32. The smallest square number which is exactly divisible by 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 is:

- (a) 800 (b) 900 (c) 1200 (d) 1500

33. The average age of a class of 30 students is 16 years. If the age of their teacher is 47 years, what will be the average age of the students and teacher?

- (a) $31\frac{1}{2}$ years (b) $28\frac{1}{2}$ years
(c) 17 years (d) $17\frac{2}{3}$ years

34. Samir bought 10 kg of tea @ 45 per kg and 8 kg @ Rs 50 per kg. He mixed the two and sold the mixture with a total profit of Rs 32. At what price per kg did he sell the mixture?

- (a) Rs 50 (b) Rs 48 (c) Rs 49 (d) Rs 47

35. A 200-metre long train is running at the speed of 60 km per hour. How many seconds will it take to cross a signal point?

- (a) 6 (b) $3\frac{1}{3}$ (c) 3 (d) 12

36. A man walked 20 metres to cross a rectangular field diagonally. If the length of the field is 16 metres, what is the breadth of the field?

- (a) 4 m (b) 12 m (c) 16 m
(d) Cannot be determined

37. What will be the amount payable after 2 years, if Rs 20,000 is borrowed @ 5% per annum compound interest?

- (a) Rs 22,500 (b) Rs 55,000
(c) Rs 11,025 (d) Rs 22,050

38. A, B and C together can finish a work in 10 days. If A and B finish the same work in 15 days, how many days can C alone complete it?

- (a) 5 (b) 20 (c) 25 (d) 30

39. The greatest number that will divide 516, 260 and 132, leaving a remainder of 4 in each case is:

- (a) 128 (b) 64 (c) 48 (d) 32

40. Two successive discounts of 15% and 20% are equivalent to a single discount of:

- (a) 32% (b) 35% (c) 65% (d) 75%

41. A businessman sold 2 cars for Rs 9900 each

making 10% profit on one and losing 10% on the other. His gain or loss % on the two cars is:

- (a) No gain, no loss (b) loss 1%
(c) gain 1% (d) gain 5%

42. A buys goods at 25% off the list price. At what per cent of the list price should he mark the goods so that he earns a profit of 20% after allowing a discount of 20%?

- (a) 112.5% (b) 120% (c) 125%
(d) 145%

43. An electric pump can fill a tank in 3 hours.

Because of a leak in the tank it was taking $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours to fill the tank. The leak can drain all the water of the tank in:

- (a) 12 hours
(b) $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours
(c) $6\frac{1}{2}$ hours
(d) 21 hours

44. If the difference between simple interest and compound interest is Re 1 for two years at the rate of 5% per annum, what is the sum?

- (a) Rs 300
(b) Rs 400
(c) Rs 450
(d) Rs 500

45. What sum should Sanjay deposit in bank so that it amounts to Rs 1915.35 in 2 years at 13% per annum compound interest?

- (a) Rs 1200
(b) Rs 1300
(c) Rs 1400
(d) Rs 1500

46. Find the amount of income obtained from 185 shares if half yearly dividend per share is Rs 4.

- (a) Rs 1200
(b) Rs 1300
(c) Rs 1440
(d) Rs 1480

47. The difference between the compound interest and the simple interest of a certain sum of money invested at 10% interest per annum after 2 years is Rs 5. The sum invested is:

- (a) Rs 300

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48. A manufacturer sells an article to a dealer keeping 25% profit. The dealer sells the same to a retailer at 25% profit. If the retailer sells the article for Rs 250 to a customer and gets a profit of 25%, what is the manufacturing price of the article?

- (a) 120
(b) 125
(c) 128
(d) 130

49. A, B and C started a business by investing Rs 40,000. If the distribution of profit is proportional to the investments, and A gets Rs 5,000 and B gets Rs 6,000 as profit from a total profit of Rs 20,000 after the year end, find the investment of C?

- (a) Rs 12,000
(b) Rs 8,000
(c) Rs 18,000
(d) Rs 10,000

50. A businessman allows 4% concession on the printed price of an article. If by selling an article for Rs 300, he earns a profit of 20%, what is the printed price of the article?

- (a) 390.62
(b) 400
(c) 389.60
(d) 388.40

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- | | |
|---------|--------------------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (c) |
| 3. (c) | 4. (e) |
| 5. (a) | 6. (e) |
| 7. (d) | 8. (d) |
| 9. (a) | 10. (a) |
| 11. (c) | 12. (c) |
| 13. (d) | 14. (c) |
| 15. (d) | 16. (d) |
| 17. (c) | 18. (c) |
| 19. (b) | 20. (a) |
| 21. (d) | 22. (d) |
| 23. (b) | 24. (e) Ans. 12.5% |
| 25. (c) | 26. (b) |
| 27. (d) | 28. (b) |
| 29. (b) | 30. (c) |
| 31. (c) | 32. (b) |
| 33. (c) | 34. (c) |
| 35. (d) | 36. (b) |

$$37. (d) \text{ Amount} = P \left(1 + \frac{r}{100} \right)^t$$

38. (d)

39. (a)

40. (a) Suppose sum = 100

$$15\% \text{ on } 100 = 15$$

$$\text{Balance} = 85$$

$$20\% \text{ on } 85 = 17$$

$$15 + 17 = 32\%$$

$$41. (b) \text{ C.P. of car with } 10\% \text{ gain} = \frac{(S.P. \times 100)}{100 + \text{gain}\%}$$

$$= \frac{9900 \times 100}{110} = 9000$$

$$\text{C.P. of car with } 10\% \text{ loss} = \frac{9900 \times 100}{(100 - 10)} = 11,000$$

$$\text{C.P. of both} = 20,000$$

$$\text{S.P. of both} = 19,800$$

$$\text{loss}\% = \frac{(C.P. - S.P.) \times 100}{C.P.} = \frac{200 \times 100}{20000} = 1$$

42. (a)

43. (d) Suppose the capacity of the tank = 300 lt

$$\text{In 3 hrs the pump fills} = 300 \text{ lt}$$

$$\text{In } 3\frac{1}{2} \text{ hrs it would fill} = \frac{300 \times 7}{3 \times 2} = 350 \text{ lt}$$

$$50 \text{ lt is drained by leakage in } \frac{7}{2} \text{ hrs}$$

$$300 \text{ lt will be drained in } \frac{300 \times 7}{50 \times 2} = 21 \text{ hrs}$$

$$44. (b) \text{ S.I.} = \frac{P \times r \times t}{100}$$

$$\text{C.I.} = P \times \left[\left(1 + \frac{r}{100} \right)^t - 1 \right]$$

45. (d) 46. (d)

47. (c) Suppose sum = 100

$$\text{S.I.} = \frac{P \times t \times r}{100}$$

$$\text{C.I.} = P \times \left[\left(1 + \frac{r}{100} \right)^t - 1 \right]$$

48. (c) Starting from the tail,

$$\text{Retailer's S.P.} = 250$$

$$\text{Retailer's C.P.} = 200 @ 25\% \text{ profit}$$

$$\text{Dealer's S.P.} = 200$$

$$\text{Dealer's C.P.} = 160 @ 25\% \text{ profit}$$

$$\text{manufacturer's S.P.} = 160$$

$$\text{manufacturer's C.P.} = 128 @ 25\% \text{ profit}$$

49. (c) 50. (a)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The questions given below were set in the BSRB (State Bank of India Group) examination held on August 2, 1992.

We are grateful to Shri Satrugunna Dasli of Puri (Orissa) for sending the questions to us.

Q. 1-12. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are printed in *italics* to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.

One of the major concerns of many European physicians today is the alarming increase in the incidence of suicides across the continent. Recent studies indicate that more Europeans take their own lives than they die on the highways. While the traditionally high suicide rates in Austria, Hungary, Switzerland and Scandinavia have remained relatively stable, the low rates in Latin and Catholic countries have begun to grow dramatically in the last 20 years. Among some age groups in Ireland, the increase is of the order of 700 per cent. In many parts of Europe, suicide has long been common among older people. In parts of Hungary, which holds Europe's record for suicides with a rate of 41 a year per one lakh people, the rate among the elderly is 300. In France it is 114, while the overall rate is 20.8. By comparison, the overall suicide rate in the United States is 12.3. In Japan it is 17.3.

The greatest concern of European specialists is the increasing number of young people who take their own lives. Since the 1960s the suicide rate among young French men between the ages of 15 and 29 has tripled. A third of Danish men who die between the ages of 25 and 34 kill themselves.

Experts see the transformation of European Society as the key to the recent increases in European suicides. The modernisation of the

workforce, the increasing social and geographical mobility and the consequent *breakdown* of old family structures and support networks all play a role. In a comparative study of suicide in 20 European countries over two decades, it was found that factors such as divorce, unemployment, the number of working women in a society, the number of children and the prevalence of religion, combined with the presence of violent crimes and alcohol abuse, are useful in predicting the rise and fall of suicide rates. As Europe's Southern tier becomes more prosperous, families are becoming smaller, relationship less stable and suicides are increasing. In eastern Europe, where change is coming even faster, suicide rates are expected to *flare-up* for a rather long period of time.

As traditional family support systems have weakened in the U.S., Canada and Britain, State and community services have worked to fill the gap with counselling and hot-lines. But there has been a setback to this very recently. More and more people are beginning to consider the way they die as an equally personal choice. This has been fuelled by a whole new range of "how-to-do-it" books *hitting* the market, a few of them even topping the best-seller list. The authors usually justify their works as human aids for the aged and infirm. Suicide is portrayed essentially as self-inflicted euthanasia, itself a *hotly* debated issue. As a consequence of this, an increasing number of people in Europe are now directly confronting their own mortality.

1. What, according to the passage, has exactly been the greatest concern of European Specialists?

- (a) Increase in the number of young people committing suicide.
- (b) Increase in the number of

Danish men killing themselves.

- (c) Increase in the number of older people committing suicide.
- (d) Increase in the number of French people killing themselves.
- (e) None of these.

2. Which of the following has not been mentioned in the passage as a reason for the gradual escalation in European suicide rate?

- (a) The breakdown of traditional family structures.
- (b) The migration of people from one place to another.
- (c) The growing unemployment problem.
- (d) The mobility of people on the social scale.
- (e) None of these.

3. According to the passage, the finding of the comparative study of suicide in 20 countries was that.....

- (a) divorce and unemployment led to violent crimes and alcohol abuse.
- (b) suicide rates could be predicted on the basis of certain socio-cultural factors.
- (c) violent crimes and alcohol abuse are the main reasons for suicides.
- (d) the prevalence of religion was combined with the presence of violent crimes and alcohol abuse.
- (e) suicide rates may rise or fall and are difficult to predict.

4. What has been mentioned in the passage as regards the suicide rate in Switzerland?

- (a) The increase in the suicide rate in Switzerland has been higher than that of other European countries.
- (b) There has not been any appreciable change in the suicide rate in Switzerland over the few years.
- (c) Switzerland's suicide rate

has been the same as that of other countries like Austria, Hungary and Scandinavia.

- (d) There has been a steady increase in the suicide rate in Switzerland over the past 20 years.
- (e) Switzerland's suicide rate has been traditionally stable, but has been growing over the last 20 years.

5. Which of the following statements is TRUE in the context of the passage?

- (a) Some places in Hungary have a yearly suicide rate of 300 elderly people per one lakh people.
- (b) The overall suicide rate in Ireland has increased by 700 per cent in the last 20 years.
- (c) The suicide rate in Latin and Catholic countries have remained low over the last 20 years.
- (d) In France, 114 individuals per one lakh people commit suicide every year.
- (e) In Japan, the suicide rate among the elderly is 17.3 a year per one lakh people.

6. The activities of State and community services are yielding less results in recent times on account of the.....

- (a) growing resistance to counselling and hotlines by the people.
- (b) increase in the number of the aged and the terminally ill resorting to euthanasia.
- (c) weakening of traditional family support systems.
- (d) ever-increasing number of people committing suicide out of frustration.
- (e) increase in the number of people exerting their personal choice in deciding the way they die.

7. Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE in the context of the passage.

- (a) Lesser number of Europeans are today dying of highway accidents than killing themselves.
- (b) One-third of men between

the ages of 25 and 34 who kill themselves are Danish.

- (c) The overall suicide rate in America is 12.3 a year per one lakh people.
- (d) An overall suicide rate of 41 a year per one lakh people has been found in parts of Hungary.
- (e) During the 1960s the suicide rate of 15-29 year old French men was only one-third of what it is today.

8. What has been mentioned in the passage regarding Europe's Southern part?

- (a) Suicide rates are remaining stable there.
- (b) Unemployment is comparatively more there.
- (c) The living standards of the people are improving there.
- (d) There are smaller families there.
- (e) Economic transformation is relatively faster there.

9-10. Which of the following is the SAME in meaning as the word/group of words given in *italics* as used in the passage?

9. *hotly*:

- (a) passionately
- (b) warmly
- (c) angrily
- (d) extensively
- (e) publicly

10. *hitting*:

- (a) striking vigorously
- (b) selling
- (c) attracting
- (d) attacking strongly
- (e) reaching

11-12. Which of the following is most OPPOSITE in meaning of the word/group of words in *italics* as used in the passage?

11. *breakdown*:

- (a) collapse
- (b) assimilation
- (c) construction
- (d) integration
- (e) collection

12. *flare up*:

- (a) group
- (b) smoulder
- (c) inflame
- (d) decline
- (e) die down

Q. 13-20. Pick out the most ef-

fective word from the given words to fill in the blank to make the sentence meaningfully complete.

13. We _____ the family members after expressing our grief at the tragedy.

- (a) mourned
- (b) condoled
- (c) satisfied
- (d) cheered
- (e) consoled

14. The doctor was overcome with _____ when he came to know that the patient had died due to negligence on his part.

- (a) emotion
- (b) reality
- (c) humiliation
- (d) remorse
- (e) conscience

15. The workers could no longer _____ their resentment against the management and therefore decided to go on strike.

- (a) consider
- (b) contain
- (c) feel
- (d) determine
- (e) express

16. By sheer hard work, Sunil has _____ out a niche for himself in the field of journalism.

- (a) derived
- (b) worked
- (c) occupied
- (d) carved
- (e) accomplished

17. The affluent life styles of contemporary politicians are in sharp contrast to the _____ ways of living of the freedom fighters.

- (a) stingy
- (b) extravagant
- (c) austere
- (d) disciplined
- (e) agnostic

18. On account of South Africa's racist policies, most of the countries had decided to _____ it economically.

- (a) condemn
- (b) discourage
- (c) isolate
- (d) prevent
- (e) treat

19. Of the several issues that were discussed in the meeting, only a few were pertinent and most of them were _____.

- (a) related

- (b) independent
- (c) contrasting
- (d) irrelevant
- (e) detached

20. The chemical warfare capability of Iraq is a _____ to aggression even by the Super-powers.

- (a) constraint
- (b) deterrent
- (c) precaution
- (d) detriment
- (e) pretext

Q. 21-25. In each of the following questions, the *italicised* part of the sentence may have an error. The sentence can be made meaningful and correct by replacing the *italicised* part with one of the given alternatives. The number of the alternative is the answer. If no correction is needed mark "5" as the answer.

21. Suparna purchased the *very good* of all the Saris kept in the shop

- (a) the most good
- (b) the very better
- (c) the best
- (d) the better
- (e) No correction required

22. Had we been on time, we *would not have* missed the train.

- (a) had not
- (b) might have
- (c) would have been
- (d) will not have
- (e) No correction required

23. *Having had* in the Railways for a long time, Manohar has visited all the Indian cities.

- (a) He has been
- (b) Had he been
- (c) Having
- (d) Having been
- (e) No correction required

24. Deepika *would have been* looked elegant in a Sari.

- (a) had looking
- (b) might have looked
- (c) was looked
- (d) would be looked
- (e) No correction required

25. Mrs Stoneham *had staying* here since 1954 and has made India her home.

- (a) is staying
- (b) will stay
- (c) was to stay
- (d) has been staying

(e) No correction required

Q. 26-35. In the following passage, there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each five words are suggested, one of which fits the blank appropriately in the context of the whole passage. Find out the appropriate words.

In the past, parents and psychologists could only (26) what a baby was thinking. Most of our (27) about infants came from direct observation by psychologists. No wonder, such information often smacked of (28) on the part of the investigator. But; as a result of (29) in scientific observation, we now (30) far better about the (31) years than ever. Video cameras have refined our ability to observe as well as (32) the behaviour of infants. As a research (33) for exploring human behaviour, the camera has been as (34) as the microscope was in (35) unseen organisms.

26 (a) guess (b) predict

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- (c) think
(d) doubt
(e) realise
27. (a) knowledge
(b) complaints
(c) decision
(d) observation
(e) thoughts
28. (a) mistake
(b) inability
(c) bias
(d) efficiency
(e) ignorance
29. (a) decline
(b) attempts
(c) interest
(d) advances
(e) opportunities
30. (a) conclude
(b) experiment
(c) discover
(d) know
(e) see
31. (a) exact
(b) early
(c) unknown
(d) adult
(e) childish
32. (a) develop
(b) retain
(c) focus
(d) watch
(e) record
33. (a) strategy
(b) tool
(c) method
(d) study
(e) problem
34. (a) vivid
(b) useful
(c) scientific
(d) candid
(e) sophisticated
35. (a) enhancing
(b) reproducing
(c) inventing
(d) destroying
(e) revealing

Q. 36-45. Read each sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical or idiomatic error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. The number of that part is your answer. If there is no error, the answer is '5'. (Ignore the errors of

punctuation, if any).

36. Despite of a good monsoon (1) this year, the production (2) of foodgrains in the (3) country did not go up (4). No error (5).

37. The last of the Mughal (1) emperors of India was imprisoned (2) and was later sent into (3) exile by the British (4). No error (5).

38. Hardly I stepped (1) out of my house when (2) I saw some policemen (3) coming towards my house (4). No error (5).

39. Today, the cost of living (1) is such higher that many (2) people find it difficult to (3) keep their hearth burning (4). No error (5).

40. Swati has such a fine (1) memory that she can (2) recollect anything what (3) happened many years ago (4). No error (5).

41. In spite of a thoroughly search (1) one of the business premises, the (2) tax authorities could not find (3) any incriminating document (4). No error (5).

42. The agitating students had taken (1) a vow not to return to their (2) classes until their demands were not (3) accepted by the Principal (4). No error (5).

43. In the meeting, Mr Mehta's (1) suggestions with regard for (2) certain administrative reforms were (3) hailed by all the members (4). No error (5).

44. The demand of the Citizens' (1) Forum that the prices of essential (2) commodities to lower down will (3) soon be considered by the Government (4). No error (5).

45. Children who have had (1) good pre-school education (2) are most likely to out-do (3) other children at school (4). No error (5).

Q. 46-50. Rearrange the following five sentences (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E) in the proper sequence so as to form a meaningful paragraph, then answer the questions given below them:

(A) However, in spite of parental efforts kids are found to fall short of their potentiality.

(B) Bringing out the best of the child is a gradual process of support and encouragement on your part.

(C) Parents give natural ability of children as an explanation for this.

(D) These efforts pay off in peak performance—the stuff of every parent's dream.

(E) There are no short-cuts to bringing your child to do his best.

46. Which sentence should come SECOND in the paragraph?

- (1) A (2) B
(3) C (4) D
(5) E

47. Which sentence should come THIRD in the paragraph?

- (1) A (2) B
(3) C (4) D
(5) E

48. Which sentence should come FOURTH in the paragraph?

- (1) A (2) B
(3) C (4) D
(5) E

49. Which sentence should come LAST in the paragraph?

- (1) A (2) B
(3) C (4) D
(5) E

50. Which sentence should come FIRST in the paragraph?

- (1) A (2) B
(3) C (4) D
(5) E

ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a) | 2. (d) | 3. (b) | 4. (c) |
| 5. (b) | 6. (e) | 7. (e) | 8. (d) |
| 9. (a) | 10. (e) | 11. (d) | 12. (e) |
| 13. (e) | 14. (d) | 15. (b) | 16. (d) |
| 17. (c) | 18. (c) | 19. (d) | 20. (b) |
| 21. (c) | 22. (e) | 23. (d) | 24. (b) |
| 25. (d) | 26. (a) | 27. (a) | 28. (c) |
| 29. (d) | 30. (d) | 31. (b) | 32. (e) |
| 33. (b) | 34. (b) | 35. (e) | |
| 36. (1) | 'despite or in spite of' a | | |
| 37. (3) | 'and later sent into' | | |
| 38. (1) | 'hardly had I stepped' | | |
| 39. (2) | 'is much higher' | | |
| 40. (3) | 'recollect anything that' | | |
| 41. (1) | 'thorough search' | | |
| 42. (3) | 'demands were accepted' | | |
| 43. (2) | 'with regard to' | | |
| 44. (3) | 'Commodities be brought down' | | |
| 45. (5) | No error | | |
| 46. B | 47. A | 48. C | 49. D |
| 50. E | | | |

GENERAL AWARENESS

Q.1 to 50 given below were set in the B.S.R.B. Probationary Officers' examination held at various centres—Lucknow, Baroda etc on the 30th August, 1992.

We are grateful to Sarveshri Sanjeet Kumar Singh and Rajjit Kumar Jha, both of Patna, V.R. Babu of Dindigul (T.N.), Rajesh Kumar Rai of Jamshedpur, Ratan Kumar Singh of Kishanganj (Bihar), Sanjay Kumar and friends of Motihari (Bihar), Santosh Kumar Kapari of Laxmi Sagar (Dt. Darbhanga) and Ravi Kant Kaushik of Mandsour (M.P.) for sending these questions to us.

The remaining questions were set in various recently held examinations.

1. Who was named for the 1992 U.N. Population Award?

- (a) Rajiv Gandhi
- (b) J.R.D. Tata
- (c) Begum Khaleida Zia
- (d) Maneka Gandhi
- (e) None of these

2. India's largest Naval Air Station which was commissioned recently is located at which of the following places?

- (a) Cochin
- (b) Karwar
- (c) Arakkonam
- (d) Bombay
- (e) None of these

3. The script of 'Hamrahi', the T.V. serial which received wide acclamation, was written by:

- (a) Ram Rikh Manhar
- (b) Srilal Shukla
- (c) Mrinal Pandey
- (d) Manohar Shyam Joshi
- (e) Vijay Tendulkar

4. A Bill to give statutory status to which of the following Commissions was recently adopted by both the Houses of the Parliament?

- (a) National Commission for Women
- (b) Minorities Commission
- (c) Agricultural Costs & Prices Commission
- (d) Commission for SC/ST
- (e) None of these

5. Which of the following Central Government Schemes was recently revamped to give due

benefit to more people not covered under the Scheme earlier?

- (a) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
- (b) Desert Development Programme
- (c) Designated Hill Areas
- (d) Public Distribution System
- (e) None of these

6. Which of the following industries from the private sector was the first one to enter the European market with Euro-issue?

- (a) Essar Gujarat Ltd
- (b) TISCO Ltd
- (c) Grasin Ltd
- (d) Reliance Industries
- (e) Birla Yamaha Ltd

7. Indian Institute of Advanced Studies is located at which of the following cities?

- (a) Shimla
- (b) Bangalore
- (c) Pune
- (d) Hyderabad
- (e) Chandigarh

8. In the Union Budget for 1992-93 the income tax exemption limit for individual tax payers has been fixed at which of the following annual incomes?

- (a) Rs 25,000
- (b) Rs 28,000
- (c) Rs 30,000
- (d) Rs 36,000
- (e) None of these

9. What is the current life expectancy for men in India?

- (a) 73
- (b) 68
- (c) 62
- (d) 59
- (e) None of these

10. The recently introduced Ecomark scheme mainly ensures which of the following?

- (a) The products are environmentally friendly
- (b) The product uses only herbal material.
- (c) The technology used is indigenous
- (d) The production is economically viable
- (e) It is produced by a small-scale industry

11. Who among the following was recently awarded the Dronacharya Award for 1990?

- (a) Ramakant Achrekar

(b) Gurucharan Singh

(c) O.M. Nambiar

(d) Raghunandan Gokhale

(e) Jagbir Singh

12. Ms Vijaya Mehta is well known for her work in which of the following?

- (a) Painting
- (b) Classical dance
- (c) Music
- (d) Theatre
- (e) None of these

13. The U.S. recently imposed a two-year ban on trade & technology transfer on which of the following Indian Organizations?

- (a) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
- (b) Defence Research & Development Organisation
- (c) Atomic Energy Commission
- (d) Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
- (e) None of these

14. Which of the following is the unit of electric current?

- (a) Volt
- (b) Ohm
- (c) Coulomb
- (d) Ampere
- (e) None of these

15. What is the main purpose of introducing 'Gold Bond Scheme' in the 1992-93 Union Budget?

- (a) to discourage people to purchase gold from market at a higher cost
- (b) to raise money for various Govt schemes
- (c) to encourage N.R.I.'s to bring more gold in the country
- (d) to mobilise the idle gold resources of people to supplement official reserves
- (e) None of these

16. The first death anniversary day of Mr Rajiv Gandhi was observed as which of the following days?

- (a) Peace & Love
- (b) Anti-terrorism
- (c) Secularism
- (d) National Integration
- (e) Environment Protection

17. Santosh Trophy is related to which of the following games?

- (a) Volleyball

- (b) Hockey
- (c) Cricket
- (d) Basketball
- (e) None of these

18. The forthcoming World Trade Fair is proposed to be held at which of the following cities?

- (a) Bangalore
- (b) Calcutta
- (c) Madras
- (d) Hyderabad
- (e) Delhi

19. 'Dashdwar Se Sopan Tak' is the autobiography of which of the following Hindi writers?

- (a) Harivansh Rai Bachchan
- (b) Hazari Prasad Dwivedi
- (c) Nagendra
- (d) Krishna Chander
- (e) S.H. Vatsyayan (Ajneya)

20. Bangkok is the capital of:

- (a) Malaysia
- (b) Taiwan
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Thailand
- (e) None of these

21. What will be the new poverty line in Rupees for becoming eligible as beneficiaries under the IRDP?

- (a) Rs 11,060
- (b) Rs 10,000
- (c) Rs 8,000
- (d) Rs 6,400
- (e) None of these

22. Recently National Science Centre was set up at:

- (a) Bombay
- (b) Calcutta
- (c) Bangalore
- (d) Hyderabad
- (e) Delhi

23. The issue of 'Tin Bigha' transfer pertains to which of the following pairs of nations?

- (a) India-Nepal
- (b) India-Pakistan
- (c) India-Myanmar
- (d) India-Bangladesh
- (e) India-China

24. The term "Golden Hand Shake" is being used in the context of which of the following?

- (a) Welcoming a new recruit
- (b) Bidding goodbye to a distinguished guest
- (c) Voluntary retirement schemes
- (d) Honouring a prize winner
- (e) A new ballet

25. 'Shanku' which was launched recently is the name of which of the following?

- (a) second indigenously built submarine
- (b) surface-to-air missile
- (c) second indigenously built missile-boat
- (d) newly developed main bat-

tle tank

- (e) None of these

26. The Eighth Plan proposes to create how many million additional employment opportunities annually?

- (a) 3 to 4
- (b) 6 to 7
- (c) 8 to 9
- (d) 10 to 12
- (e) None of these

27. Production of Chloroflourocarbons (CFC) gas which is proposed to be banned in India, is used in which of the following domestic products?

- (a) Television
- (b) Refrigerator
- (c) Cooking gas
- (d) Tubelight
- (e) None of these

28. Limba Ram recently equalled world record in:

- (a) Boxing
- (b) Long jump
- (c) Pole vault
- (d) Archery
- (e) Rifle Shooting

29. What is annual growth rate envisaged in 8th Five-Year Plan?

- (a) 5.6%
- (b) 6%
- (c) 6.5%
- (d) 7%
- (e) None of these

30. The chairman of the reconstituted National Commission for SC/STs?

- (a) Ram Dhan
- (b) Prakash Ambedkar
- (c) Dr Sarojini Mahishi
- (d) Sushil Kumar Shinde
- (e) None of these

31. The Tax Reforms Committee, the report of which was taken into consideration while presenting the Finance Bill '92 was headed by:

- (a) M. Narasimhan
- (b) Raja Chelliah
- (c) M.N. Goporia
- (d) R.S. Krishnaswamy
- (e) R. Janakiraman

32. Kumar Gandharva earned a distinction in:

- (a) Classical dance
- (b) Drama
- (c) Literature
- (d) Folk dance
- (e) None of these

33. Which of the following satellites was successfully launched by India's A.S.L.V. recently?

- (a) INSAT-1A
- (b) IRS-1B
- (c) INSAT-1D
- (d) SROSS-C
- (e) None of these

34. Why was Subhash Mukhopadhyay in the news recently?

- (a) He won the Jnanpith Award-1991
- (b) He was awarded Arjun Award for 1990

35. (c) He was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of India

(d) He was a member of Indian team which successfully conquered Mt Everest

(e) None of these

35. Which of the following countries became a Republic recently?

- (a) Thailand
- (b) Mauritius
- (c) Maldives
- (d) South Africa
- (e) None of these

36. At present which of the following parties is recognised as the main opposition party in Rajya Sabha?

- (a) BJP
- (b) Janata Dal
- (c) Janata Party
- (d) SJP
- (e) None of these

37. Which of the following countries is not a member country in SAARC?

- (a) Myanmar
- (b) Maldives
- (c) Pakistan
- (d) Bhutan
- (e) Sri Lanka

38. Which of the following statements about meridians and equator is true?

- (a) Meridians are imaginary lines parallel to equator
- (b) Meridians and equator converge at the two poles
- (c) Meridians are perpendicular to the equator
- (d) Meridians and equator never meet each other
- (e) None of these

39. Who is the Chairman of Space Commission?

- (a) U.R. Rao
- (b) Sam Pitroda
- (c) P.K. Iyengar
- (d) Abdul Kalam
- (e) Vasant Govarikar

40. Which of the following best describes Vikram INMARSAT?

- (a) India's first indigenously built satellite
- (b) India's newly acquired RADAR system
- (c) India's first mobile satellite communication land-earth station
- (d) India's first Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (I.C.B.M.)
- (e) None of these

41. Which one of the following does not constitute the electoral college for electing the President of India?

- (a) Elected members of the Rajya Sabha
 (b) Elected members of the Lok Sabha
 (c) Elected members of the Legislative Council
 (d) Elected members of the Legislative Assembly of each State
 (e) None of these
42. What is the sex-ratio in India as per 1991 census?
 (a) 929
 (b) 934
 (c) 950
 (d) 960
 (e) None of these
43. The 30th Chess Olympiad were recently held at:
 (a) Linnres
 (b) Manila
 (c) Novisad
 (d) Lyon
 (e) Rio de Janeiro
44. Rio de Janeiro which was in the news recently because of the Earth Summit, is the capital of:
 (a) Mexico
 (b) Guyana
 (c) Brazil
 (d) Cuba
 (e) Algeria
45. Sriperumbadur, a temple town in S. India, is the birth place of:
 (a) Vidyaranya
 (b) Ramanuja
 (c) Adi Shankaracharya
 (d) Madhavacharya
46. India's first "Ladies Special" suburban train was started by which of the following zones of Indian Railways?
 (a) Central (b) Western
 (c) Northern (d) Eastern
 (e) Southern
47. Bhalji Pendharkar who received a National Level prestigious award recently belonged to which of the following fields?
 (a) Literature
 (b) Marathi films
 (c) Music
 (d) Sports
 (e) None of these
48. India recently signed a five-year agreement with which of the following countries on trade and economic co-operation with Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment to each other?
 (a) Mauritius
 (b) Nepal
 (c) Kazakhstan
 (d) Bangladesh
 (e) None of these
49. Which of the following pairs

of country and its currency is not correct?

- (a) Bangladesh—Taka
 (b) United Arab Emirates—Dirham
 (c) North Korea—Won
 (d) Saudi Arabia—Riyal
 (e) Japan—Yuan
50. Of the following Indian States, which is the poorest State in the country, as per data available by Planning Commission for the year 1990-91?
 (a) Bihar
 (b) West Bengal
 (c) Orissa
 (d) Himachal Pradesh
 (e) Karnataka
51. Who among the following is the President of Italy?
 (a) Oscar Luigi Scalfaro
 (b) Mohammed Najibula
 (c) Boudiat
 (d) Ahmed Shah Masood
 (e) None of these
52. Name the President of Algeria who was shot dead in June, 1992?
 (a) Mohammed Boudiaf
 (b) Asif Maung
 (c) Pierre Bergovoy
 (d) S. Niyazov
 (e) None of these
53. How many years reservation for SC/ST candidates were extended?
 (a) 10 years (b) 20 years
 (c) 15 years (d) 5 years
 (e) None of these
54. Where will the next Asian Games be held in Japan?
 (a) Hiroshima (b) Nagasaki
 (c) Tokyo (d) Trinito
 (e) None of these
55. Karakoram Highway connects:
 (a) India and China
 (b) India and Pakistan
 (c) Pakistan and China
 (d) India and Nepal
 (e) None of these
56. Insulin is used for patients suffering from:
 (a) Diabetes
 (b) T.B.
 (c) Asthma
 (d) Heart disease
 (e) None of these
57. Barcelona, the place where summer Olympics were held, is situated in which of the following countries?
 (a) Spain
 (b) England
 (c) India

- (d) Thailand
 (e) None of these
58. The author of the book WAR and PEACE is:
 (a) Tolstoy
 (b) Gorbachev
 (c) Rajagopalachari
 (d) Nancy Regan
 (e) None of these
59. Thomas Cup was won by which one of the following countries?
 (a) Indonesia (b) Thailand
 (c) China (d) India
 (e) Malaysia
60. Birju Maharaj is famous for:
 (a) Kathak
 (b) Bharata Natyam
 (c) Odyssey
 (d) Kutchipudi
 (e) None of these
61. Vitamin A is found abundantly in:
 (a) lemon (b) carrot
 (c) fish (d) milk
62. Which of the following are Kharif crops?
 (a) cotton, rice, maize
 (b) wheat, linseed, mustard
 (c) gram, pulses, barley
 (d) None of these
63. "Angora" wool is sheered from:
 (a) sheep of mountain breed
 (b) bear
 (c) Anatolian goat
 (d) None of these
64. Cauvery river falls in:
 (a) Indian Ocean
 (b) Arabian Sea
 (c) Bay of Bengal
 (d) None of these
65. Bharatpur Sanctuary is in:
 (a) U.P. (b) Assam
 (c) Rajasthan (d) Gujarat
66. Which among the following is nearest to the earth?
 (a) Mercury (b) Venus
 (c) Moon (d) Sun
67. Pneumatic tyres were developed by:
 (a) Dunlop
 (b) Goodyear
 (c) Cooper
 (d) None of these
68. "Buddha Jayanti" is observed on:
 (a) Full-moon day
 (b) Half-moon day
 (c) Non-moon day
 (d) None of these
69. Integration of the former princely States with the Indian Republic was largely due to:
 (a) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
 (b) Jawahar Lal Nehru

- (c) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
(d) None of these
70. Daves in Switzerland was in the news in the beginning of 1992 for:
(a) hosting the World Economic Forum
(b) hosting the EEC meeting of foreign ministers' conference
(c) staging the Winter Olympics
(d) organising an "India Week"
71. The disease "Kala Azar" is widespread in which Indian State?
(a) West Bengal
(b) Orissa
(c) Bihar
(d) Uttar Pradesh
72. What are the main features of Panchayati Raj system of government?
(a) it involves a three-tier arrangement
(b) it is aimed at providing social and economic justice to the villagers
(c) Zila Parishad has some M.P.s as its members
(d) All the above
73. Who was considered by Mahatma Gandhi as his political Guru?
(a) Rabindra Nath Tagore
(b) Dadabhai Naoroji
(c) Madan Mohan Malaviya
(d) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
74. Who led the movement for a separate State of Pakistan?
(a) Aga Khan
(b) Nawab Salimullah
(c) Liaquat Ali Khan
(d) Mohammad Ali Jinnah
75. The State of Bihar is approximately between the longitude of:
(a) 84°E and 88°E
(b) 80°E and 88°E
(c) 80°E and 84°E
(d) None of the above
76. The literacy level in Bihar is approximately:
(a) 30%
(b) 34%
(c) 38%
(d) 45%
77. In India, the population of Bihar is
(a) highest
(b) second highest
(c) third highest
(d) fourth highest
78. The Munda tribals are mostly located in
(a) Madhya Pradesh

- (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Assam
(d) Bihar
79. Iron ore is not available in the following Indian States:
(a) Bihar
(b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Orissa
(d) Punjab
80. The place nearest to the centre of the earth at sea level is:
(a) North Pole
(b) Tropic of Capricorn
(c) Tropic of Cancer
(d) Equator
81. The distance between the two rails in "broad gauge" is.
(a) $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft
(b) $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft
(c) 5 ft
(d) $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft
82. The Gandhara School of Art flourished during the times of:
(a) The Kushans
(b) The Guptas
(c) Akbar
(d) The Mauryas
83. The largest oil exporting country is:
(a) Algeria
(b) Iran
(c) Nigeria
(d) Saudi Arabia
84. Esperanto is:
(a) the highest mountain in Latin America
(b) port city in Spain
(c) the name of a game
(d) an artificial international language created to act as world language
85. The language spoken by the second largest number in India (after Hindi) is:
(a) Marathi
(b) Tamil
(c) Telugu
(d) Urdu
86. The principal language/languages spoken in Switzerland is/are:
(a) only German
(b) only French
(c) German and French only
(d) German, French and Latin
87. The working language(s) of the "UNESCO" is/are:
(a) French only
(b) English only
(c) English and French
(d) English, French and Russian

88. Match the various States of India with popular dance forms:
(a) Andhra Pradesh (1) Bihu
(b) Assam (2) Bura
(c) Himachal Pradesh (3) Ghoomar
(d) Rajasthan (4) Natti
89. The Lakshadweep islands are located in:
(a) South-west India
(b) South of India
(c) South-East of India
(d) East of India near West Bengal
90. Credit for research and development in space science goes to:
(a) S.S. Bhatnagar
(b) V. Sarabhai
(c) S.Z. Qasim
(d) C.V. Raman
91. The term "ozone layer" refers to.
(a) Atmospheric condition on the Antarctica
(b) A recent discovery on the planet Saturn
(c) The layer about 10-20 km below the surface of the earth
(d) The layer in the upper atmosphere 15 to 30 km above the earth's surface
92. An adult Indian elephant weighs approximately:
(a) 500 kg
(b) 1000 kg
(c) 5000 kg
(d) 10,000 kg
93. The scientist Albert Einstein is famous for:
(a) exploring atomic structure of hydrogen
(b) photo-electric law
(c) building the first nuclear reactor
(d) predicting the existence of neutrino
94. Fast Breeding Reactor is a nuclear reactor to produce electricity:
(a) through fusion process
(b) with the help of solar cells
(c) by burning and producing
(d) by using heavy water as moderator
95. "Pasteurization" is the process where:
(a) milk is kept at very low temperatures for about 24 hours
(b) milk is heated for about 8 hours
(c) milk is first heated for a long period and then suddenly cooled for a specified

period

(d) None of the above

96. "Amphibia" refers to

(a) boats which can travel very fast

(b) animals which can live in water only

(c) animals which can live on land only

(d) animals which can live on both land and water

97. Light from the sun takes approximately the following time to reach the earth:

(a) 8 seconds

(b) 1 minute

(c) 8 minutes

(d) 24 minutes

98. Stainless steel is an alloy of

(a) Iron and Copper

(b) Iron and Zinc

(c) Iron and Chromium

(d) Iron and Graphite

99. Pushkar, the name of a lake, is situated in

(a) Ajmer (b) Jaipur

(c) Jammu (d) Bangalore

(e) None of these

100. Which of the following is a Kharif crop?

(a) rice (b) wheat

(c) mustard (d) linseed

ANSWERS

1. (b)

2. (c) The naval-air station named INS Rajali at Arakkonam near Madras became operational on March 11, 1992.

3. (d) 4. (b) 5. (d)

6. (d) 7. (a) 8. (b)

9. (d)

10. (a) Eco-Mark is the labelling scheme introduced in India for any product which is environment friendly from cradle to grave (entire life cycle)

11. (a) 12. (d) 13. (a)

14. (d) 15. (d) 16. (b)

17. (e) Ans Football 18. (d)

19. (a) 20. (d) 21. (a)

22. (e) 23. (d) 24. (c)

25. (a) 26. (c) 27. (b)

28. (d) 29. (a) 30. (a)

31. (b)

32. (e) Ans classical music

33. (d) 34. (a) 35. (b)

36. (a) 37. (a) 38. (c)

39. (a) 40. (c) 41. (c)

42. (a) 43. (b) 44. (c)

45. (b) 46. (b) 47. (b)

48. (c) The agreement was signed between India and the Republic of Kazakhstan in the last week of Feb '92.

49. (e) "Yuan" is the currency of China, Japan's currency is "Yen".

50. (a) 51. (a) 52. (a)

53. (b) 54. (a) 55. (c)

56. (a) 57. (a) 58. (a)

59. (c) 60. (a) 61. (b)

62. (a) 63. (c) 64. (c)

65. (c) 66. (c) 67. (a)

68. (a) 69. (c) 70. (a)

71. (a) 72. (a) 73. (d)

74. (d) 75. (a) 76. (c)

77. (b) 78. (a)

79. (b) & (d)

80. (d) 81. (b) 82. (a)

83. (d) 84. (d) 85. (c)

86. (d) 87. (d)

88. (a) (2)

(b) (1)

(c) (4) (d) (3)

89. (a) 90. (b) 91. (d)

92. (c) 93. (b) 94. (a)

95. (c) 96. (d) 97. (c)

98. (c) 99. (a) 100. (a)

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TEST OF REASONING—1

Tick mark the choice to fulfil the missing number in the series given below:

- 1 15, 51, 35; 53, ..., 42; 13; 31.
(a) 31 (b) 24 (c) 16 (d) 28
- 2 24, 25, 21; 30; 14; ...
(a) 39 (b) 29 (c) 33 (d) 37
- 3 1; 1; 4; 8; 9; 27; ..., 64.
(a) 16 (b) 24 (c) 32 (d) 8
- 4 15; ..., 28; 36; 45; 55.
(a) 20 (b) 24 (c) 21 (d) 19
- 5 3; 18, 6, 24; 4, 20; ...
(a) 7 (b) 5 (c) 10 (d) 6
- 6 3; 5; 9; ..., 33; 65.
(a) 19 (b) 15 (c) 21 (d) 17
- 7 6, 36, 12; ...; 18; 18; 24, 9.
(a) 24 (b) 29 (c) 30 (d) 27
- 8 11, 9; 14, 13, ..., 17, 20; 21.
(a) 15 (b) 16 (c) 17 (d) 18

Numbers in questions 9 to 12 follow the same arrangement. Find out the missing numbers.

- 9

3	19	7
14	16	?
2	23	4

(a) 18 (b) 12 (c) 24 (d) 30
- 10

1	25	2
?	18	7
8	16	7

(a) 14 (b) 23 (c) 19 (d) 16
11.

6	24	4
16	19	30
4	?	5

(a) 34 (b) 39 (c) 23 (d) 20
12.

11	59	3
36	?	22
12	27	2

(a) 14 (b) 32 (c) 28 (d) 29

Which number from the choice should be placed at the sign of interrogation?

13	15	6	5
	13	3	9
	8	2	?
	20	7	13

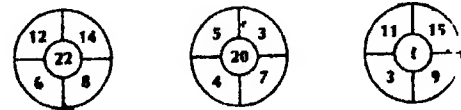
- (a) 1 (b) 4 (c) 6 (d) 7

14.



- (a) 19 (b) 7 (c) 18 (d) 11

15



- (a) 33 (b) 1 (c) 8 (d) 12

16. How many four-letter words can be formed by dropping any six letters from the word ABSOLUTELY and not changing the order of the letters?

- (a) 9 (b) 8 (c) 7 (d) 6

17 Which commonly used five-letter word will be formed without changing the order of the letters in the word?

Find the odd-man out:

18. (a) QNPO (b) YVXW (c) LHKJ
(d) URTS (e) NKML
19. (a) CEAF (b) HJFL (c) RTPU
(d) LNJO (e) WYUZ
20. (a) YBCX (b) OLMN (c) UFGT
(d) WDEV (e) SJKR
21. (a) FDBA (b) LJHG (c) WUSR
(d) ZXUT (e) PNLK

Q. 22 to 27. If according to a certain code:

22. CLAIM is bdtgh and TREND is jkmpt then LA-MENT would be:

- (a) mfgkjd
(b) djhbpf
(c) mdhkip
(d) hspgcd

23. REMAIN is zxwvup and STYLE is bxcgh then MATRON would be:

- (a) pclkhw
(b) xgpkwz
(c) pguvzk
(d) lgvuhx

24. BLACK is efghj and DROWN is mqrst then CLERK would be:

- (A) ptuse
(b) ujmg
(c) qheus
(d) hsguj

25. RATION is OIPJUBS then ANSWER is

- (a) SFXTOB
(b) BORXDS
(c) SGXUOD
(d) XJURNT

26. THRICE is UJLVHK then EQUALS is

- (a) FRVBMT
(b) EPVZMU
(c) FSXEQY
(d) FRWDPX

27. NUMBER is OTNAFQ then STUDENT is

- (a) TSVCDMU
(b) TUVEFOU
(c) RUVCFMS
(d) TSVCFMU

Q. 28 to 30. Which set of alphabets from the choice given, when placed serially in the blanks will complete the series?

28. a-baa-aaba-ca-b

- (a) abac
(b) acaa
(c) ccaa
(d) bcca

29. st-s-trss-rsst-s

- (a) srtr
(b) rssr
(c) trsr
(d) rstr

30. mln-nml-l-mm-lmn

- (a) nmll
(b) nlnm
(c) mnlm
(d) lnml

31. What is the minimum number of one, two, five and ten rupee notes to make any payment from Re 1/- to Rs 20/-?

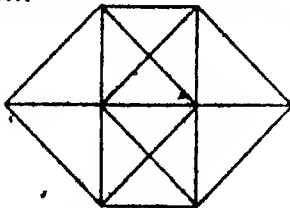
One rupee notes—?

Two rupee notes—?

Five rupee notes—?

Ten rupee notes—?

Study the figure given below and answer the questions that follow:



32. How many triangles does the figure have?

- (a) 16 (b) 20 (c) 24 (d) 28

33. How many squares are there?

- (a) 2 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 7

Landmarks A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H are as follows:

F is two km to the east of C.

B is two km to the west of D.

A is two km to the south of F.

G is two km to the west of A.

E is one km to the north of D and one km to the east of A.

H is one km to the east of G.

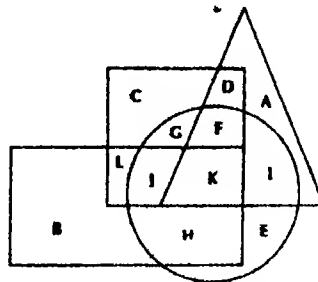
34. Which four lie in a straight line?

- (a) CGED
(b) FAED
(c) GHAE
(d) DAHG

35. How far is G from C and in which direction?

- (a) 2 km south
(b) 1 km north
(c) 2 km west
(d) 3 km east

Q. 36 to 40. are based on the following diagram in which four figures overlap each other. The square represents boys, the circle tall persons, the triangle is for players of badminton and the rectangle for those who play cricket. Different regions of the diagram are represented by certain alphabets. On the basis of this information, try to find out the correct answer for each question.



36. Which letter represents boys who neither play badminton nor cricket and are not tall?

- (a) L (b) G (c) C (d) F

37. Which section represents tall boys who do not play either of the games?

- (a) C (b) G (c) L (d) J

38. Which section represents tall boys who play both the games?

- (a) F (b) K (c) J (d) C

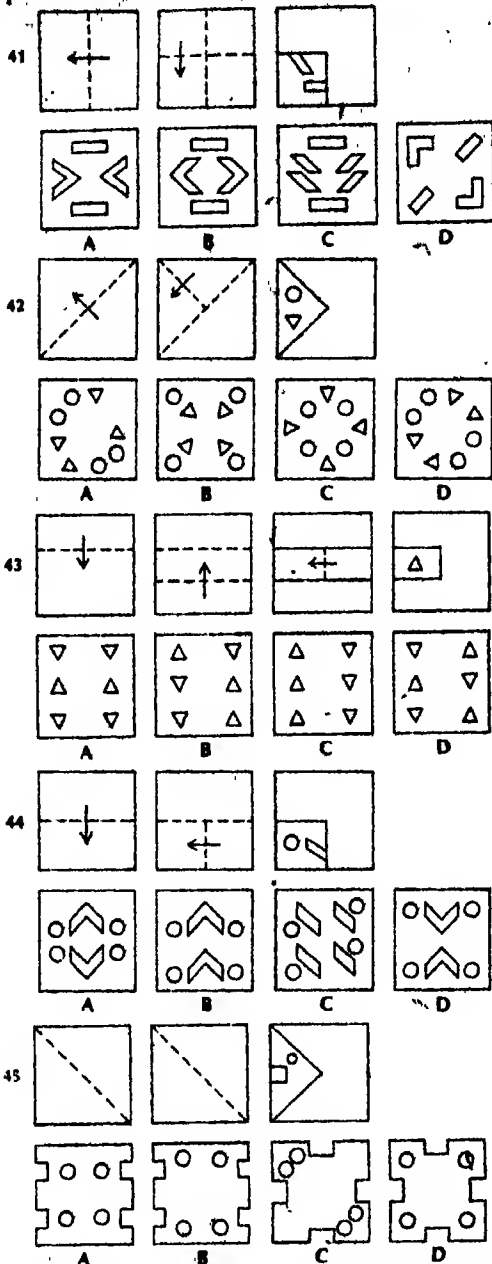
39. Which letter represents boys who are not tall but they play cricket?

- (a) C (b) B (c) H (d) I

40. Which persons, other than boys are tall and play cricket only?

- (a) H (b) B (c) E (d) I

Q. 41 to 45. A piece of paper is folded as shown below and a cut/cuts are made as marked. What would the paper be like when unfolded?



Q. 46 to 50. Which two signs should be interchanged to make the equation right?

46. $(81 \times 9) + 10 + 6 + 2 = 21$

- (a) \times and $+$ (6) (b) \times and $+$
(c) $+$ and $+$ (2) (d) \times and $+$ (2)

47. $17 \times 3 + 32 + 4 - 7 = 36$

- (a) $+$ and $-$ (b) \times and $-$
(c) $+$ and $+$ (d) $+$ and \times

48. $84 + 6 \times 12 + 4 - 46 = 56$

- (a) \times and $-$ (b) $+$ and $-$
(c) $+$ and $+$ (d) $+$ and \times

49. $6 + 45 - 9 + 4 \times 2 = 3$

- (a) $+$ and \times (b) $+$ and $+$
(c) $+$ and $-$ (d) $+$ and $-$

50. $44 + 4 + 12 \times 21 - 6 = 45$

- (a) $+$ and \times (b) \times and $-$
(c) $+$ and $+$ (d) $+$ and $-$

51. How many pairs of letters in the word INTERCHANGE have as many letters between them as in the alphabetical order?

- (a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 7

52. If first five letters of the word given above were put in the last and the last five letters in the beginning without changing their order, the ninth letter from the right would be:

- (a) T (b) N (c) G (d) A

53. Mahesh is taller than Rahul; Tapan is taller than Naresh but not as tall as Sushil. Sushil is shorter than Rahul. If they all stood in a line starting from the tallest according to their height, who would be fourth in the line?

- (a) Naresh (b) Tapan
(c) Sushil (d) Rahul

Anita, Chandni and Geeta sit around a table with Bhupendra, Dinesh and Hari:

No two girls or two boys are sitting together.

Anita is facing Bhupendra.

Dinesh is not near Geeta.

Chandni is to the right of Bhupendra.

54. Who is on the right of Anita?

- (a) Dinesh
(b) Geeta
(c) Hari
(d) Bhupendra

55. Who is to the left of Dinesh?

- (a) Geeta
(b) Anita
(c) Chandni
(d) Hari

56. Raman, Madhav, Shashi and John ordered fruit-juice, mango-shake, coffee and tea as each wanted a drink.

Raman and John did not want tea or mango-juice.

Madhav and Shashi did not want coffee or fruit-juice.

John did not like coffee and Shashi never took tea.

Who ordered coffee?

- (a) Raman
(b) Madhav
(c) Shashi
(d) John

57. A dice is lying in two different positions as given below:



What number is on the opposite face of 2?

- (a) 1
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 6

Shobha was married on 16th day after her engagement. The marriage was on Tuesday.

58. On what day was Shobha engaged?

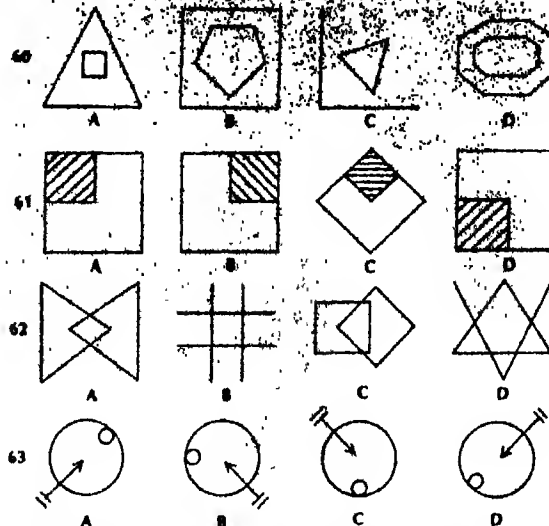
- (a) Sunday
- (b) Monday
- (c) Wednesday
- (d) Thursday

59. If she was married on the last Tuesday of the month and the first day of the month was Friday, the date of her marriage was:

- (a) 25th
- (b) 26th
- (c) 27th
- (d) 28th

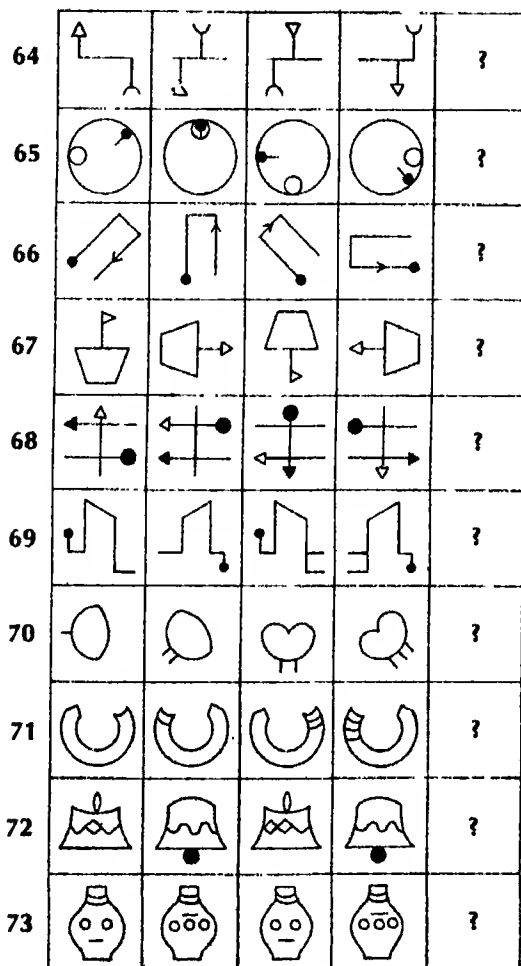
NON-VERBAL SERIES

Find the odd man out

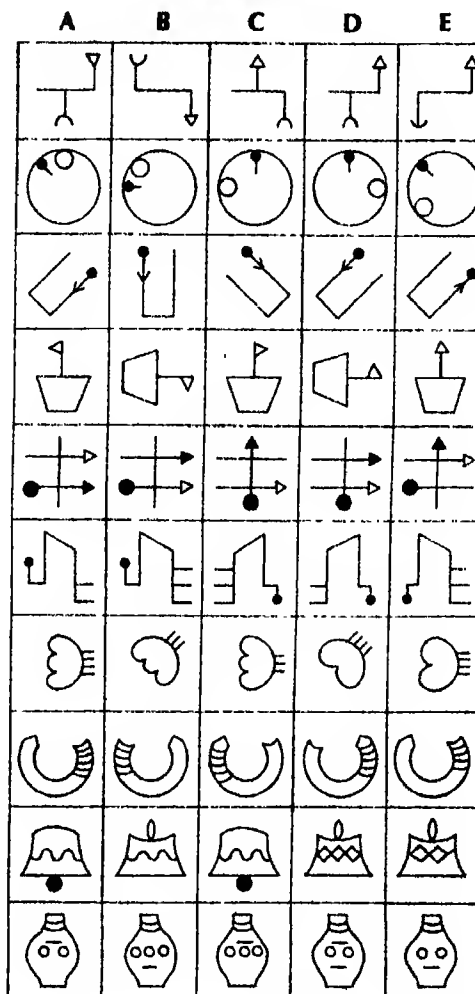


Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures marked A, B, C, D and E. You have to decide which of the Answer Figures would fit in place of the question mark in the Problem Figure.

PROBLEM FIGURES



ANSWER FIGURES



Find the odd-man out:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 74. (a) potato | (b) turnip |
| (c) onion | (d) groundnut |
| (e) walnut | |
| 75. (a) crow | (b) sparrow |
| (c) crane | (d) cuckoo |
| (e) nightingale | |
| 76. (a) trumpet | (b) harmonium |
| (c) drum | (d) bugle |
| (e) flute | |
| 77. (a) lynx | (b) fox |
| (c) panther | (d) jaguar |
| (e) puma | |
| 78. (a) javelin | (b) discus |
| (c) spear | (d) ball |
| (e) hockey | |
| 79. (a) vertebra | (b) tibia |
| (c) pelvis | (d) skull |
| (e) appendix | |
| 80. (a) gold | (b) iron |
| (c) silver | (d) plastic |
| (e) mica | |
| 81. (a) hiss | (b) thump |
| (c) neigh | (d) grunt |
| (e) roar | |

ANALOGIES

Words in questions given below have a certain relationship. Tick mark the choice with similar relationship.

82. bull horns
(a) elephant wings
(b) paper pen
(c) car wheel
(d) money purse
83. eliminate consider
(a) initial final
(b) learn study
(c) instruct display
(d) roast fry
84. whole fraction
(a) plus minus
(b) star planet
(c) rain water
(d) ocean drop
85. dune sand
(a) flower rose
(b) doctor nurse
(c) book magazine
(d) house brick
86. bridge cards
(a) glass mirror
(b) fencing sword
(c) swim river
(d) table furniture

87. observatory : planet
(a) cinema : studio
(b) school students
(c) lab germs
(d) library book

88. bread flour
(a) ink blue
(b) clothes cloth
(c) rainbow sun
(d) permit allow

89. flowers scent
(a) train track
(b) court judge
(c) stars light
(d) typhoid disease

Match questions 90 to 95 with the choice from A, B, C, D, E and F on the basis of similar relationship among the items.

90. body blood bones
(A) pearl shell coral
91. London England France
(B) prediction wrong true
92. brain skull head
(C) Mars Jupiter Saturn
93. book pen pencil
(D) shelf room house
94. dogs white horse
(E) bank cash locker
95. disease curable fatal
(F) medicine sweet fruit

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (b) Make sets of two. The digits of the number are reversed
2. (a) Squares of numbers from 1 onwards are added and subtracted simultaneously, i.e. $+1^2 - 2^2 + 3^2 - 4^2 + 5^2$
3. (a) The arrangement is $1^2, 1^3, 2^2, 2^3, 3^2, 3^3, 4^2, 4^3$
4. (c) Go on adding 6, 7, 8, 9 to numbers
5. (b) Each alternate number is the product of numbers on its right and left
6. (d) Each number is double minus one of the preceding number
7. (d) There are two series, one with a difference of 6 and the other with a difference of 9
8. (c) Again there are two series, one with a difference of 3 and the other with the difference of 4
- 9 to 12. The arrangement is Example question no 9
 $2 \times 7 = 14, 3 \times 4 = 12$ (missing number),
 $3 + 14 + 2 = 19,$
 $7 + 12 + 4 = 23$ and corners $3 + 2 + 4 + 7 = 16$
9. (b) 10. (d)
11. (b) 12. (c)
13. (a) Add first two numbers and deduct the third one

columnwise.

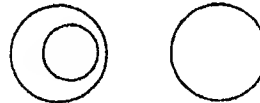
- 14 (d) The addition of numbers in the upper triangle is 7 times of the numbers in the lower one.
- 15 (b) Example first circle: $6 \times 8 = 48$, $12 + 14 = 26$; $48 - 26 = 22$.
- 16 (b) ABLE; ALLY, BOLT; BLUE, LUTE; SOUL; SOLE and SLUT
- 17 ABOUT 18. (c)
- 19 (b) 20. (e)
- 21 (d) 22. (a)
- 23 (c) 24 (d)
- 25 (a) Write the word in reverse order, i.e. NOITAR and the codes are their next letters in alphabetical order.
- 26 (c) The gap with code letters increases by one letter
- 27 (d) The code letters are next ones and preceding ones by turns.
- 28 (b) The series is aab/aac/aab/aac.
- 29 (d) The series is strs/strs
- 30 (b) The series is mlnn/nmll/lmnm/mlnn
- 31 1, 2, 1 and 1
- 32 (d) 33 (c)
- 34 (c) 35 (a)
- 36 (c) 37 (b)
- 38 (b) 39 (d)
- 40 (a) 41 B
- 42 D 43 A
- 44 A 45 C
- 46 (d) 47 (a)
- 48 (c) 49 (d)
- 50 (c)
- 51 (d) TR, CE, CA, AE, NR, NT, NF
- 52 (b) H A I N G F C I N T F R
- 53 (b) 54 (c)
- 55 (c) 56 (a)
- 57 (b) 58 (a)
- 59 (b)
- 60 D The figure inside should have one side extra
- 61 D The lines in the small square are wrong
- 62 D Two identical figures overlap each other
- 63 C Arrow should be opposite to the small circle
- Q 64 to 73 Observe the pace, clockwise and anti-clockwise or to and fro movements, additions or dropping of each small figure individually and then reach the conclusion
64. D
- 65 A
66. A
- 67 C
- 68 B 69 B
- 70 C 71 E
72. D 73 E
- 74 (e) All the others are root products

75. (c) It is the only water bird among others.
76. (b) All the others are instruments of band.
77. (b) All the others belong to cat animal category.
78. (c) It is the only weapon among items of sports.
79. (e) All the others are bones.
80. (d) All the others are minerals.
81. (b) All the others are sounds of animals.
82. (c) It is the part of an item and item.
83. (a) The words are opposites.
84. (d) It is whole and a very small part relationship.
85. (d) One is made of the other.
- 86 (b) The game is played by the item.
- 87 (c) One is specially made to study the other
- 88 (b) It is the product and raw material relationship.
- 89 (c) One is the source for the other.

90 E



91 A



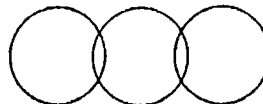
92 D



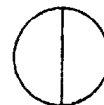
93 C



94 I



95. B



TEST OF REASONING—II

These questions were asked in the Probationary Officers' Examination held on 30.8.92 by BSRB Baroda

1 Among five friends, A is heavier than B, C is lighter than D, B is lighter than D but heavier than E. Who among them is the heaviest?

- (a) B (b) C (c) A (d) D
(e) Not certain

2 If the positions of the first and sixth letters of the word BENEFICIAL are interchanged, similarly the positions of the second and seventh are interchanged and so on, which letter will be third from the right end after rearrangement?

- (a) E (b) N (c) C (d) F
(e) None of these

3 If the following alphabet is arranged in reverse order, which letter will be the eighth letter to the left of the seventh letter counting from the right end?

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

- (a) P (b) O (c) N (d) Q
(e) None of these

4 In a certain code language 123 means hot filter coffee, 356 means very hot day and 589 means day and night. Which digit in that language means very?

- (a) 8 (b) 6 (c) 9 (d) 5
(e) None of these

5 Some boys are sitting in a row. P is sitting fourteenth from the left and Q is seventh from the right. If there are four boys between P and Q, how many boys are there in the row?

- (a) 19 (b) 21 (c) 25 (d) 23
(e) None of these

6 Which of the following will come in place of the question mark (?) in the following letter series?

BXE DVI I TL HRO ?

- (a) JPI (b) KPI
(c) JOI (d) KPM
(e) None of these

7 Starting from a point Raju walked 12 metres towards North, he turned right and walked 10 metres, he again turned right and walked 12 metres, then he turned left and walked 5 metres. How far is he now and in which direction from the starting point?

- (a) 27 metres towards East
(b) 5 metres towards East
(c) 10 metres towards West
(d) 15 metres towards East
(e) None of these

8 If + means \times , \times means \div , \div means $-$, $-$ means $+$

then

$$5 + 8 - 4 \times 2 \div 9 = ?$$

- (a) 15 (b) 13 (c) 17 (d) 11
(e) None of these

9 In a certain code language dum pul ta means bring hot food, pul tir sop means food is good and tak da sop means good bright boy. Which of the following does mean hot in that language?

- (a) dum (b) pul
(c) ta (d) cannot be determined
(e) None of these

10 Four of the following five are alike in a certain way and so form a group. Which is the one that does not belong to that group?

- (a) DHG (b) CGF
(c) HLK (d) JNR
(e) BFF

11 If light is called dark, dark is called green, green is called blue, blue is called red, red is called white and white is called yellow, what is the colour of blood?

- (a) red (b) dark
(c) white (d) yellow
(e) None of these

12 In a certain code COURAGE is written as UOCRGA. How is JOURNAL written in that code?

- (a) UOJRLAN (b) OUJRANI
(c) OJURANI (d) UOJLANR
(e) None of these

13 If the third day of a month is Monday, which of the following will be the fifth day from 21st of that month?

- (a) Tuesday (b) Monday
(c) Wednesday (d) Thursday
(e) None of these

14 If it is possible to make a meaningful word with the fourth, the eighth and the tenth letters of the word COUNTERFACT. Which of the following will be the last letter of that word? If no such word can be made give X as answer. If more than one such word can be made give M as the answer.

- (a) A (b) N (c) T (d) X
(e) M

15 How many such 7s are there in the following number sequence which are immediately followed by 4 but not immediately preceded by 8?

547897438757487412745794

- (a) Two (b) Three
(c) Four (d) Five
(e) None of these

Q. 16-20. In each question below are given two statements followed by two conclusions numbered I and II. You have to take the given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance from commonly known facts and then decide which of the given conclusions logically follows from the statements, disregarding commonly known facts. Give answer:

- (a) if only conclusion I follows
- (b) if only conclusion II follows
- (c) if either I or II follows
- (d) if neither I nor II follows
- (e) if both I and II follow

Statements

- 16 1 Some phones are watches
2 All watches are guns

Conclusions

- I All guns are watches
II Some guns are phones
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

- 17 1 All cars are cats
2 All fans are cats

Conclusions

- I All cars are fans
II Some fans are cars
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

- 18 1 Many scooters are trucks
2 All trucks are trains

Conclusions

- I Some scooters are trains
II No truck is a scooter
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

- 19 1 All dogs are monkeys
2 No monkey is a cat

Conclusions

- I No dog is a cat
II No cat is a dog
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statements

- 20 1 All umbrellas are aeroplanes
2 Some aeroplanes are birds

Conclusions

- I Some umbrellas are birds
II Some birds are umbrellas
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Q. 21-25. In each question below is given a statement followed by two assumptions numbered I and II. An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the assumptions and decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement. Give answer:

- (a) if only assumption I is implicit
- (b) if only assumption II is implicit
- (c) if either I or II is implicit
- (d) if neither I nor II is implicit
- (e) if both I and II are implicit

Statement

21. In order to achieve optimum industrial growth, the State Government should provide the necessary infrastructural facilities to the entrepreneurs.

Assumptions

- I The entrepreneurs are in need of infrastructural facilities
II The State Government has failed to provide such facilities in the past
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

22 Incentives must be given to strengthen the motivation of the employees

Assumptions

- I Incentives are expected to motivate the employees
II Employees at present are not motivated
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

23 Despite heavy rains traffic has not been disturbed

Assumptions

- I Rains do not affect traffic movement
II Adequate precautions were taken for traffic management during rainy season
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

24 All the employees are notified that the organisation will provide transport facilities at half cost from the nearby railway station to the office except those who have been provided with travelling allowances

Assumptions

- I Most of the employees will travel by the office transport
II Those who are provided with travelling allowance will not read such notice
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

25 Many historians have done more harm than good by distorting truth

Assumptions

- I People believe what is reported by the historians
II Historians are seldom expected to depict the truth
(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Q. 26-30. In each question below is given a statement followed by two courses of actions numbered I and II. A course of action is a step or administrative decision to be taken for improvement, follow-up or further action in regard to the problem, policy etc on the basis of the

information given in the statement. You have to assume everything in the statement to be true, then decide which of the two given suggested courses of action logically follows for pursuing. Give answer:

- (a) if only I follows.
- (b) if only II follows.
- (c) if either I or II follows.
- (d) if neither I nor II follows.
- (e) if both I and II follow.

Statement:

26. Reports of steep and continued decline in the inflows into the Gobindsagar reservoir of the Bhakra Dam, coupled with a depleted stock of steam coal with the thermal power plants in the north, may lead to a serious power crisis in the region.

Courses of action:

- I. The supply of steam coal to the thermal power plants needs to be immediately stepped up by the Government.
- II. The Government should set up hydraulic power plants on other rivers in the region.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement

27. The Indian electronic component industry venturing into the West European markets faces tough competition from the Japanese.

Courses of action:

- I. India should search for other international markets for its products.
- II. India should improve the quality of the electronic components to compete with the Japanese in capturing these markets.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

28. Certain mining industries in Gujarat may come to a standstill because of the notification issued by the Department of Environment and Forest banning mining operations and industries alike within 25 kms of National park, the game sanctuary and reserve forest areas.

Courses of action

- I. The department should be asked to immediately withdraw the notification.
- II. The Government should make effort to shift the parks, sanctuaries and reserve forests to other non-mining areas.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement.

29. The police department has come under a cloud with recent revelations that at least two senior police officials are suspected to have been involved in the illegal sale of a large quantity of weapons from the State police armoury.

Courses of action:

- I. A thorough investigation should be ordered by

the State Government to bring out all those who are involved into the illegal sale of arms.

II. State police armoury should be kept under Central Government's control.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Statement:

30. Financial stringency prevented the Manipur Government from paying salaries to its employees since April this year.

Courses of action:

- I. The Manipur Government should reduce wasteful expenditure and arrange to pay the salaries of its employees.
- II. The Manipur Government should immediately curtail the staff strength at least by 30%.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Q. 31-35. Below is given a passage followed by several possible inferences which can be drawn from the facts stated in the passage. You have to examine each inference which can be drawn from the facts stated in the context of the passage and decide upon its degree of truth or falsity. Mark answer:

- (a) if the inference is "definitely true" i.e., it properly follows from the statement of facts given.
- (b) if the inference is "probably true" though not definitely true in the light of the facts given.
- (c) if the "data are inadequate" i.e., from the facts given you cannot say whether the inference is likely to be true or false
- (d) if the inference is "probably false" though not "definitely false" in the light of the facts given.
- (e) If the inference is "definitely false" i.e., it cannot possibly be drawn from the facts given or it contradicts the given facts.

A worrying feature of Indian urbanisation has been its tendency to increase pressure on the inner cities. The first results of the 1991 census suggest that the density of population in urban areas is within manageable limits, with most cities, including Greater Bombay, being well below the 23,000 per square kilometre mark set by Calcutta. But within several of the older cities the walled areas have high densities which exert pressure on the outdated amenities in these areas, a pressure that is accentuated by the poor maintenance of housing as well as other assets in the inner cities. The inner cities were designed for a pattern of urban life far removed from what exists today. The makers of narrow winding lanes could hardly have anticipated modern transportation.

31. The pace of Indian urbanisation is much slower by international standards.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

32. The increase in density of population in urban areas has outgrown the increase in amenities.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

33. The rate of growth in density of population in the inner cities has been more than that in surrounding areas.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

34. At the time of planning the cities in the past the use of bigger roads was envisaged by the planners.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

35. The density of population in the inner city of Greater Bombay is the highest in India.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Q. 36-40. Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given below it:

(i) A, B, C, D, E, F and G are seven members of a family

(ii) Six of them have a different profession of Accountant, Lawyer, Teacher, Manager, Doctor, Engineer and one is a student

(iii) There are two married couples in the family

(iv) A and F's professions are Accountant and Doctor respectively

(v) D is the father of B and the grandfather of G and is an Engineer

(vi) No lady is either an Engineer or a Lawyer

(vii) G, who is a student, is the grandson of E

36. How is C related to G?

- (a) Mother (b) Aunt
(c) Sister (d) Data inadequate
(e) None of these

37. How is F related to G?

- (a) Brother (b) Sister
(c) Uncle (d) Data inadequate

(e) None of these

38. In the following which one is a couple?

- (a) B, G (b) B, D
(c) D, E (d) A, C
(e) None of these

39. What is the business of G?

- (a) Teacher (b) Manager
(c) Lawyer (d) Doctor
(e) None of these

40. How many male members are in the family?

- (a) 4 (b) 5
(c) 3 (d) Data inadequate
(e) None of these

Q. 41-50. Read the following conditions carefully and answer the questions. The following are the qualifications for allotment of flats to the employees of a certain organisation. The employee:

- (a) must complete at least 10 years in a unit of the organisation out of which atleast 4 years in the post of supervision
(b) there must not be more than 5 family members
(c) he must have to complete rest atleast 5 years whereas the age of retirement is 58 years
(d) he must not have his own house
(e) he/she must not stay in his/her wife or husband's house.
(f) however, fulfilling other conditions except (a) and

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he must have joined as a manager, he can be recommended to the director-finance.

- (g) except (c) fulfilling all the conditions and now he must be a general manager, it may be sent to the managing director's recommendation
(h) if he is transferred from another city, condition (a) can be waived

Basing on above facts you have to determine the situation of selections. Everything is reckoned on 31 July 1992. Answer:

- (a) if the employee can be given a flat
(b) if the employee can not be given a flat
(c) if complete information are lacking
(d) if the case can be sent to the director-finance
(e) if the case can be sent to the managing director

41 Gita Gokhle has been working in the organisation as an officer for last 5 years and she has joined 10 years ago. Her date of birth is 8 June 1940. She is living with her husband and 3 children. Her husband or herself has no house.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

42 Kabul Das stays with his wife and 3 children. He has been working in the organisation since last 12 years out of which he was a manager for 5 years. His date of birth is 2 July 1945. He is staying in a rented house.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

43 Bipin Dhade has been transferred from another office and he is 53 years old on 8 February 1992. He has been working in the organization for last 12 years out of which he had worked as a manager for 10 years. His family consists of 4 members. Neither his wife nor himself has a house.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

44 Satish Agrawal has been working in this office for last 15 years. Besides his wife, one son and two daughters are the members of his family. Neither his wife nor himself has a house. His date of birth is 20 January 1950.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

45 Vikas Kulkarni was 52 on 5th May 1940. He has been working in the organization since last 8 years out of which he was an officer for 5 years. He stays with her wife and one son. Neither his wife nor himself has a house.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

46 Suresh Apte has been working in the organization since last 12 years, one of which he has been a manager since last 4 years. His family consists of 4 members. His wife or himself has no house. He is retiring from the organization in 1998.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

47 Ashok Patakar had joined the organization as a manager in 1986 and he was 30 on 15th August 1989. His family consists of 4 members. Neither his wife nor himself has a house.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

48 Hemant Adhikari had joined the organization as a manager 4 years ago. He stays with his wife and 2 children. Neither his wife nor himself has a house.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

49 Megha Pradhan had joined the organization as a manager in 1975. She was 28 at the time of joining. She is unmarried. She stays with her parents in a rented house. She has no house.

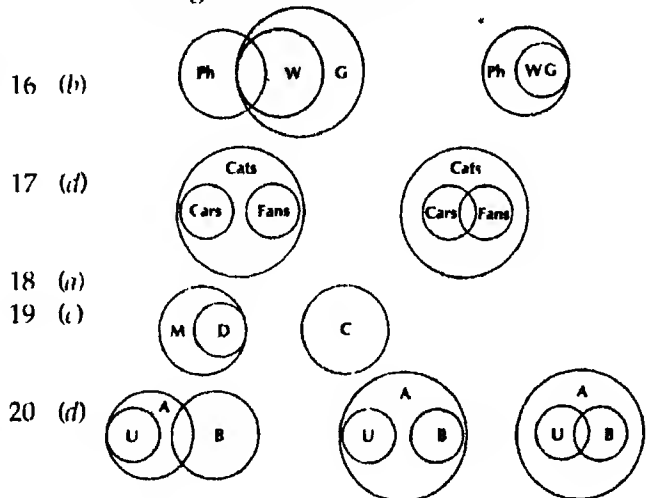
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

50 Sudha Karkare joined the organization as a clerk in 1979. 5 years ago, she was promoted to the post of a Supervisor. She stays with her husband and 2 children in a rented house and she has not her own house. She had applied for a Flat on 23 April 1991.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- 1 (e) The heights of A and D have not been compared, it could be either
2 (b) 3 (b) 4 (b) 5 (c)
6 (e) (should be JPR) 7 (d) 8 (c)
9 (d) 10 (d) 11 (d) 12 (a)
13 (c)
14 (e) The words are ANT and TAN
15 (b)
16 to 20 These questions are best solved by drawing figures of all the possible situations and then reaching the final conclusion.



- 21 (a) 22 (a) 23 (c)
24 (a) 25 (e) 26 (b) 27 (b)
28 (b) 29 (a) 30 (a)
31 (c) International data and rate of increase are missing
32 (b) Since lack of amenities has been mentioned in old cities, it could be so to some extent in all urban areas
33 (b) 34 (c) 35 (e)
36 to 40 The statements establish very few relationships except the stated ones
36 (d) 37 (d) 38 (c) 39 (e)
40 (d) 41 (a) 42 (a) 43 (b)
44 (c) 45 (b) 46 (a) 47 (d)
48 (c) 49 (a) 50 (c)

Current Affairs Quiz

This quiz has been made to help the readers judge how well they are aware of the important happening/events of past months. This quiz would also help in the revision of all that you had studied in past months.

1. With which country India recently established diplomatic ties?

2. What is "Operation Rhino"?

3. Who is the leader of the *Shetkari Sanghathan*?

4. What does the abbreviation VSNL stand for?

5. What does the Dunkel plan relate to?

6. Name the Director-General of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade).

7. Name the two places of India where the Presses for printing of bank notes are located.

8. What is "Swaran Kalash"?

9. Why was Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) shut down by the Bank of England in July 1991?

10. Name the Chairman of Amnesty International?

11. What is Fairgrowth Financial Services?

12. Who captained the Indian Hockey team in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics?

13. What does Project Unigauge relate to?

14. Name the winner of the men's title of the 1992 Wimbledon Tennis Championship.

15. For what purpose was the Janakiraman Committee set-up?

16. What is G-7?

17. Name India's first fast-breeder research reactor.

18. Who is the head of 10th Finance Commission?

19. Where was the Earth Summit held in June '92? What was the purpose of this summit?

20. Under the Indian Constitution who decides the share of divisible taxes between the Centre and States?

21. On what date is World Environment Day celebrated?

22. What is the total membership of UN?

23. What did Woods Despatch (1853) relate to?

24. Who is the ninth President of India?

25. Name the 18-year-old South Korean girl who became the first gold medallist at the 25th Olympic Games, held at Barcelona, Spain?

26. Name the President of International Olympic Association (IOC)?

27. Who has been awarded the Lata Mangeskar Samman for 1992?

28. What is new name of Burma?

29. What is the name of *Samadhi* of Mr Rajiv Gandhi?

30. Who is the Democrat nominee for the 1992 US Presidential elections?

31. Who is the author of the book *Rajiv*?

32. Where is 'Bharat Bhavan' located?

33. Name the youngest woman to be inducted in the Union Cabinet?

34. Where was the 10th NAM summit held in September 1992?

35. Name the two Asian countries which recently established diplomatic relations after a gap of 41 years.

36. What is "Golden Handshake"?

37. What does the abbreviation NRY stand for?

38. Name the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

39. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to send a mission, by 2000 AD, to which planet?

40. How many Nuclear Power plants have been set-up by the Department of Atomic Energy?

41. What was the name of the Mascot of the Barcelona Olympic Games?

42. Which Indian satellite was launched on March 19, 1975?

43. Name the first India-made satellite.

44. Who was Kanan Devi?

45. What does Maastricht treaty relate to?

46. What was the purpose of Prasar Bharati Act?

47. Who is the Deputy-Chairman of the Rajya Sabha?

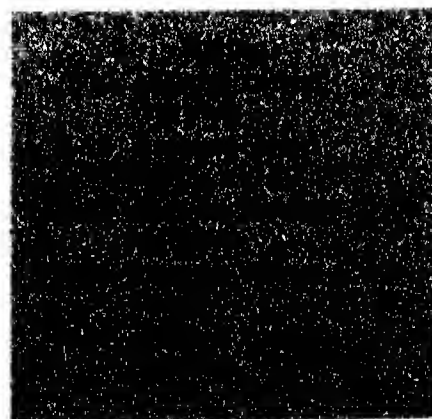
48. Who is President of Russia?

49. Which country has won the 1992 Thomas Cup?

50. For excellence in which field are Dronacharya awards given?

ANSWERS

1. Israel.
2. It is the code name given to Indian Army operations against the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA).
3. Sharad Joshi
4. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
5. Dunkel plan relates to patent protection and textile trade liberalisation.
6. Arthur Dunkel.
7. Nasik and Dewas. Reserve Bank of India is installing two new note presses at Mysore and Salloni (West Bengal).
8. "Swarn Kalash" is a deposit scheme of State Bank of India to cater exclusively to the needs of rural and semi-urban people. It was launched on February 1, 1992.
9. BCCI has been accused of charges including money laundering, bank rolling, arms trafficking and political bribery.
10. Ms Anette Fischer.
11. It is a 3-year-old company floated by late B. Ratnakar, former Chairman of Canara Bank. The company has been charged of involvement in the bank scam.
12. Pragat Singh.
13. Project Unigauge of Indian Railways was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on July 3, 1992. Under the project a total of 28,000 km of metre-gauge route will be converted to broad-gauge.
14. Andre Agassi of USA.
15. It was set-up by the RBI to investigate irregularities in the banking system and to investigate into the securities scam.
16. G-7 is group of world's seven leading industrialised nations—USA, Germany, Japan, UK, Canada, France and Italy. G-7 was originated by President Valery Giscard D'estaing of France in 1975 to tackle the first oil crisis.
17. Dhruva.
18. K.C. Pant.
19. Rio-de-Janeiro, capital of Brazil. The purpose of the summit was to initiate global response to environmental pollution and loss of forest wealth.
20. Finance Commission.
21. June 4.
22. 179. (Recently Yugoslavia has been dismissed as member of UN thus bringing down the membership to 178).
23. Woods Despatch related to the educational reforms.
24. Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma.
25. Yeo Kab-Soon. She took the gold medal in the women's rifle competition.
26. Juan Antonio Samaranch.
27. Yesudas.
28. Myanmar. The capital's name has been changed from Rangoon to Yangon.
29. Vir Bhumi
30. Bill Clinton.
31. Mrs Sonia Gandhi.
32. Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
33. Ms Shelja. She belongs to Haryana.
34. Jakarta, Indonesia.
35. China and South Korea.
36. "Golden Handshake" is the policy of payment of large sums of money to persons opting for voluntary retirement, after a certain period of service. This policy helps employers to get rid of staff rendered surplus by adoption of latest technology.
37. Nehru Rozgar Yojna.
38. Sarajevo.
39. Mercury.
40. Five
41. Cobi.
42. Aryabhata.
43. INSAT-2A.
44. Legendry Bengali film actress.
45. It relates to economic and political unification of Europe.
46. To provide autonomy to AIR and Doordarshan.
47. Dr (Mrs) Najma Heptullah.
48. Boris Yeltsin.
49. Malaysia.
50. The award is given to coaches for outstanding work on a constant basis in three consecutive years.



Future of NAM

The 10th summit of NAM countries held at Jakarta early in September was described as an impressive show from many standpoints. But has the Non-aligned Movement emerged stronger after the summit? Opinions vary on this question. The proposition for discussion is "The Jakarta summit has imparted a new life and new vigour to the Non-aligned Movement."

Mr A Sir, I think there is no doubt in the minds of all the developing countries' leaders that NAM has received a new life as a result of the Jakarta summit which was attended by no fewer than 108 countries, with China—the remaining Communist giant—and representatives of some international institutions as observers. The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Narasimha Rao is not in the habit of indulging in empty boasts or making tall claims. But he remarked after the Jakarta summit that the session had breathed a new life into the Non-aligned Movement and had put it on the rails again. Its important role in the post Cold War world is being increasingly realised. The Jakarta Message and Declaration called for shaping a new world and a new international order through the irreplaceable role of the United Nations. A high-level group of non-aligned nations was set up at the summit and was entrusted with the task of drawing up concrete proposals for the restructuring and democratisation of the UN system. The Message also indicated the formation of a joint committee to coordinate the efforts and strategies with the "Group of 77" which has similar aims as the entire develop-

ing world. Much greater South-South cooperation is to be sought for the benefit of the large number of countries situated in this vast region. The NAM session urgently called upon the developed countries to ensure, without further delay, a balanced and equitable conclusion of the Uruguay Round which should take into account the interest of all parties, especially the developing countries. The summit rightly observed that a shift of focus in international relations towards strengthening multilateral cooperation for development had become indispensable. I would also draw the attention of this House to the call for abandonment of the veto power of the Security Council's permanent members which has led to many undesirable situations and prevented justice from being done. The veto power has thwarted several well-conceived plans of the Third World and helped the Big Powers to maintain their hegemony. The summit also adopted several highly commendable proposals. Thus NAM performed its duty remarkably well. We must not try to belittle the performance of the high-level gathering at Jakarta and the consistent labour the participants put in with a view to promoting the welfare of a majority of the world population. NAM has a bright future.

Mr B While I have no intention to belittle the contents of the much-publicised Jakarta Message and the Declaration, I think I must point out the utter futility of passing high-sounding resolutions and

making all too familiar calls to the Big Powers to help establish a new just and equitable world order. Have such calls, made repeatedly from various platforms of the Third World, and also from the august forum of the UN General Assembly, made any impact worth the name on the Powers that control the poor world's destiny or made any difference to these power-obsessed countries' selfish policies? Sir, much expenditure was incurred on holding the Jakarta summit and a whole week was spent on the deliberations there. But I am afraid the net achievements were nothing to boast of. There was a split over the complex issue of Yugoslavia and the NAM summit did little to prevent the mass slaughter of innocent people being carried on there week after week. There is endless turmoil in Kabul, a non-aligned country which was represented at the summit by the hapless Afghans' President. Did the summit talks help even in the slightest degree to restore peace to that troubled land? Again, thousands of people—men, women and children—have been starving to death in Somalia. Did the Jakarta summit participants do anything to provide relief to the famine-stricken masses there? They did not. Instead they merely expressed concern over the tragedy and asked the Western countries to send food and medicines to the sorely troubled people of Somalia. The harsh reality is that the NAM countries do not have either the resources or the requisite unity of purpose and firm determination to help even member-countries belonging to their own fraternity. There is

no sign of the "new spirit" of which several NAM leaders talked of at the summit. The Western nations took little notice of the repetitive speeches delivered at the Jakarta session. They just ignored the event, as they have been doing all these years whenever NAM sessions are held. I feel, therefore, that the expense and the energies used up at Jakarta should have been utilised more fruitfully by rushing aid to the needy masses of Somalia, the hard hit but brave people of Afghanistan, and of certain ruined areas of Yugoslavia. Mere resolutions achieve little. If lengthy, high-sounding resolutions in which the NAM countries specialise could solve the world's problems, we would have been living in a happy world by now. Unfortunately, that is not the case. The world is not an inch nearer that goal since the Jakarta summit.

Mr C Sir, my predecessor Mr B, has left no stone unturned in his bid to mock at the NAM summit but I don't think those present in this House will be carried away by his spurious arguments. Let us be realistic and take into account the limited resources of the non-aligned nations and their economic and political handicaps. Such is the unequal division of resources in this world that prosperity is confined to a handful of countries while the rest of the world has constantly to face formidable challenges demanding the utmost attention the governments there can give. Those who question the relevance of NAM in the post Cold War world apparently ignore the realities of the present situation. It is futile to argue that in the present world, especially with the collapse of the Soviet empire, NAM is an anachronism. On the contrary, all impartial observers of the international scene hold the view that NAM is needed more

than ever before. Just imagine what the international scenario would be like if NAM had not been there to voice the aspirations of the needy and deprived world! In its absence, the US, the sole surviving giant of the West, would be able to dictate its terms to others (except the strong countries such as Japan, Germany and France). It is NAM that in effect restrains the hand of the mightiest power. NAM provides a useful platform which the majority of the countries are naturally disinclined to abandon. I would like to stress that it was at Accra over a year ago that NAM Foreign Ministers visualised a new world; it was there that the shape of the new world after the dissolution of the Soviet Union and end of Warsaw Pact, became clearer. Have the critics of NAM, been able to explain why the world's weak and poor countries (some are not very poor) have stuck together in NAM and held a summit every three years, with occasional sessions of the NAM countries' Foreign Ministers? NAM is now the only organisation that can forcefully put up, because of its large following, proposals for restructuring the United Nations and for introducing changes in the absolute power of the Security Council's permanent members. NAM is certainly playing a useful role in speaking up for the world's countless "have-nots" in a blatantly selfish world. It is also to be noted that more and more NAM countries will henceforth look to India for representing their cause because Yugoslavia is virtually finished as a distinct political entity. The overriding desire among NAM countries is to enable NAM to survive at this crucial juncture. Surely, they have a definite purpose in view and are more realistic than those who would like to demolish the structure

Mr D I disagree with Mr C

and would like to ask some pertinent questions. What has NAM achieved all these years since it came into existence following the efforts of Nehru, Nasser and Tito? Have the Big Powers responded to any of the demands and the "calls" the NAM summits make? Actually, NAM is currently facing a crisis of identity, its members are not clear in their minds about the future role of this movement. No wonder, Egypt, one of the founders of NAM (Nasser was one of the trio that once mattered much) is now suggesting that NAM should change its name and policy and merge itself with the "Group of 77" which is probably more acceptable to the powers that be. The three other countries which support Egypt's standpoint are Iran, Tunisia and Libya. There may be more countries which are only half-hearted supporters of this movement in the new international situation. Moreover, there is a split, though not open, among the members. They could not agree even on the important issue of Yugoslavia. Besides, some of the aims of NAM have already been achieved, such as decolonisation, end of imperialism and grant of freedom to several oppressed countries. Racism and apartheid have ended in South Africa. The winds of democracy are blowing all over the world. These were the original aims of NAM. I might also ask why China was allowed to become an observer at the Jakarta summit when it is well known that Beijing still blocks the progress of democracy and cares little for basic human rights. Why was China's policy, which continues to smack of dictatorship and authoritarianism, not condemned at Jakarta? Isn't NAM as divisive and hypocritical as the mighty powers it repeatedly condemns? I think those who think a reinvigorated NAM can prove to be a force to be reckoned with are living in a dream world.

Civil Services

Today Civil Services are considered to be one of the most coveted and sought-after services in the country. The Civil Services Examination which is held every year by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), is one of the most only contested competitions. Through its examination 700 to 1000 posts are filled up in various prestigious services belonging to Group-A and Group-B and over 2 lakh candidates take this examination every year.

The Career

Civil Services offer excellent career opportunities in various top services of the Central Government including All India Services like Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS), Central Civil Services (Group-A) and other Group-B Services. A candidate selected for All India Services and Central Civil Services with favourable age at recruitment and good performance in the service career may expect to reach the highest position in the cadre like Cabinet Secretary in the I.A.S., Director General/Commandant General in the I.P.S. and Foreign Secretary in the Indian Foreign Service (I.F.S.). Group-B services also offer very good career prospects and after a few years of services, a Group-B officer is nominated/promoted to Group-A services.

The combined Civil Services Examination is conducted every year for recruitment to the following posts/services;

Group-A Services

- (a) Indian Administrative Service (I.A.S.).
- (b) Indian Police Service (I.P.S.).
- (c) Indian Foreign Services (I.F.S.).
- (d) Indian Customs and Central Excise Service.
- (e) Indian Income Tax Service.
- (f) Indian Audit and Account Ser-

vice.

- (g) Indian Defence Account Service.
- (h) Indian Postal Service.
- (i) Indian P & T Accounts and Finance Service.
- (j) Indian Ordnance Factories Service.
- (k) Indian Defence Estate Service.
- (l) Indian Civil Accounts Service.
- (m) Indian Railway Accounts Service.
- (n) Indian Railway Traffic Service.
- (o) Indian Railway Personnel Service.
- (p) Central Trade Service.
- (q) Central Information Service.
- (r) Asstt. Security Officer in Railway Protection Force.

Group-B Services

- (a) Central Secretariat Service (Section Officers).
- (b) Delhi and Andaman and Nicobar Civil Service.
- (c) Delhi and Andaman and Nicobar Police Service.
- (d) Pondicherry Civil Service.
- (e) Pondicherry Police Service.
- (f) Customs 'Appraisers' Service.
- (g) Railway Board Secretariat Service.
- (h) Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Service.
- (i) Assistant Commandant in Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

Scheme of Examination

The U.P.S.C. conducts Civil Services Examination every year, which has three stages:

- (i) Preliminary Examination (Objective Type)
- (ii) Main Examination
- (iii) Personal Interview. Graduates from any discipline from recognised Universities or candidates holding equivalent qualifications are eligible

to take this examination. Age limit is 21 years to 28 years, though upper age limit has kept fluctuating during the recent years. Upper age limit is relaxed by 5 years in case of Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Ex-servicemen candidates. Every candidate is allowed a maximum of three chances. The examination also has usual reservation for the SC/ST candidates as per rules.

Preliminary Examination:

Preliminary Examination is basically an Objective Type (Multiple Choice Answers) screening test. This examination aims at short-listing genuinely serious 10,000 candidates for the main examination. This examination has two papers which are usually held on second Sunday of June every year. Despite one compulsory paper of General Studies carrying 150 marks, the candidates are required to offer one optional subject carrying 300 marks. Performance of a candidate is judged out of these 450 marks, on the basis of which first 10,000 are declared qualified. The candidates may offer one optional subject out of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science, Botany, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Commerce, Economics, Electrical Engineering, Geography, Geology, Indian History, Law, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, Sociology, Statistics and Zoology. The syllabus for the optional subject is equivalent to that of degree level.

Main Examination: Result of Preliminary Examination is usually declared by the end of July and all those who qualify this examination then have to take the main examination which is normally held in October every year. This examination is conventional (descriptive) type and has eight papers as under:

Paper-I	One of the Indian Languages out of all languages contained in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
Paper-II	English.
Paper-III	General Studies—I.
Paper-IV	General Studies—II.
Paper-V	First Optional—I.
Paper-VI	First Optional—II.
Paper-VII	Second Optional—I.
Paper-VIII	Second Optional—II.

Each of the above papers carry 300 marks. Paper-I and Paper-II (Indian Language and English) are of Matriculation standard and are qualifying in nature. Marks obtained by the candidates in these two papers are not included in their score of main examination. Rest of six papers i.e. Paper-III to Paper-VIII carry 1800 marks in all. (300 marks in each paper). Paper-III (General Studies-I) covers Modern Indian History, thoughts of Gandhi, Nehru and Tagore, Indian Culture, current national and international affairs and statistical analysis, graphs and diagrams. Paper IV (General Studies-II) covers the questions on Indian Political System, Constitution, Indian Economy including Planning, Geography and role and impact of science and technology in Indian development

The candidates are required to choose two optional subjects (two papers each) out of the following subjects:

(i) Agriculture, (ii) Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science, (iii) Anthropology, (iv) Botany, (v) Chemistry, (vi) Commerce and Accountancy, (vii) Economics, (viii) Electrical Engineering, (ix) Geography, (x) Geology, (xi) History, (xii) Law, (xiii) Literature of one regional language, (xiv) Management, (xv) Mathematics, (xvi) Mechanical Engineering, (xvii) Philosophy, (xviii) Physics, (xix) Political Science and International Relations, (x) Psychology, (xi) Public Administration, (xii) Sociology, (xiii) Statistics, (xiv) Zoology.

The syllabus for all above papers is normally of the honours degree

level.

Interview: Candidates equal to double the numbers of vacancies are normally declared qualified out of 10,000 candidates who appear in the main examination. Result of main examination is normally declared in March. All candidates who qualify the main examination are then interviewed by the U.P.S.C. in April/May. U.P.S.C. conducts these interviews through several Interview Boards and the Board has complete record of the career of the candidates at the time of interview. Main objective of personal interview is to judge the suitability of a candidate for civil services. The Board usually looks for the qualities like mental capabilities, assimilation power, analytical capabilities, originality of views on various current national and international events, clarity, expression, balance of judgement and depth of interests. As an aspirant for top most services of the country, the candidates are also expected to have a fairly sound knowledge of planning, budgeting, current economic problems, Indian Constitution and important aspects of Indian Political System, even though Economics and Political Science are not offered by the candidate as optional subjects. Similarly, the arts students are also expected to have a working knowledge of various applied aspects of science and technology in India as well as in the world.

The competition being very tough, personal interview plays a vital role in determining the final merit of a candidate. The interview carries 250 marks and marks obtained in the interview are then added to the marks obtained in the main examination to draw a final merit list out of a maximum of 250 marks. The chances of a candidate who appears in the interview, to find his name in the final list of selected candidates are 50 : 50. Hence one has to prepare for the interview thoroughly.

Final result is usually declared somewhere in July. On the basis of rank of a candidate in the merit list and choice of service exercised by him/her, a particular service is al-

lotted to a candidate. Normally first 200 candidates may expect to get into IAS, IPS and IFS, depending on the rank and choice of service. Training normally starts by August for the selected candidates.

Coaching and Preparation

There are several institutes/organisation all over the country that impart pre-examination coaching for civil services examination for all three stages i.e. preliminary examination, main examination and personal interview. Ministry of Welfare, Gov. of India runs free pre-examination coaching classes for Scheduled Cast and Scheduled Tribe candidates in all the States/Union Territories through various Universities and State Training Institutes. Such coaching is also available to general category candidates on payment of nominal fee. It is recommended that fresh candidates should take some coaching/guidance before venturing into this examination.

The examination being highly competitive, needs thorough preparation and careful planning. It is, therefore, recommended that a candidate must study at least 8 to 10 hours everyday right from the day he/she fills up the form for preliminary examination. Regular reading of a standard competition magazine like "The Competition Master" is strongly recommended to keep abreast with latest happenings all over the world. Though every candidate has three chances to qualify the examination, yet the candidates must endeavour to get into the service in the first attempt itself. Last, but not the least, it is emphasized that qualifying this examination is tough but not impossible. Every year hundreds of candidates get into civil service and a large number out of them are mediocre students. What one really needs to pass this examination is firm determination, self-confidence, dedication, well-planned preparation and hardwork.

Most of other details regarding syllabus and other aspects of examination are available in the advertisement which appears in the "Employment News".

Discontentment: Main-spring of Progress

Discontentment—the first step in progress

A fair amount of gripping *etc.*, pinch of distress, is a wonderful thing. It is a healthy and a good way to let off steam. Dis-satisfaction with the *status quo* leads to improvements and then we have progress. Intelligent constructive discontent is the main-spring of progress. It is the first step in the progress of a man.

There is a divine discontent that sees things are not as good as they might, and cheerfully accepts the challenge to do something to make them better, in the enlivening spirit of a game in which you may receive hard knocks, and can take them undeterred, because you have your mind focussed on the ball and the goal is still before you. The game is never lost till won. Bovine contentment with the things as they are is a sign of failure. Edison said, "Restlessness is discontentment and discontentment is the first necessity of progress. Show me a thoroughly satisfied man—and I will show you failure."

Every cloud has a silver lining

THIS means that every prospect, however grim, has its hopeful side. So, don't be down-hearted. There is a story of a great sculptor carving keenly and thoughtfully an amorphous block of marble, because he could "see an angel in it." That is the way to cast off apathy: always to expect some good purpose in every situation of your life. Make it a habit, a way of looking at things. Never give up, press on.

Develop fear-challenging behaviour. "Fear simply does not exist

out there in the world. It is something that you do to yourself by thinking fearful thoughts and having fearful expectations." A fear-based personality immobilizes you and keeps you from operating from strength. Instead of a dynamo you become a cabbage. All your fear-thoughts like 'I'll fail', 'I'll look stupid', 'I'm not sure', 'I'll lose everything'—are purely 'head trips'. The disasters you visualize rarely happen. Recall the words of the ancient sage who said, "I am an old man and I've had many troubles most of which never happened."

Failures: stepping stones to success

THOSE who believe in success and refuse to believe in defeat are not dismayed by failures. For them, failures become stepping stones to success. They never lose sight of their goals and aims, whatever the obstacles that may come in their way. In reality you will seldom have a problem that you don't already know how to solve. Some problems appear formidable but are not really so. Appearances are deceptive. As a rule, we rarely come across problems or situations that we are not capable of answering and meeting. We should start doing something about our problems like the farmer who, for fifty years was plagued by a big rock in his field. Finally, tired of being plagued by this obstruction, he decided to take positive action. He prized it loose with no effort at all because it was only about a foot deep. It looked much more formidable than it really was, since the farmer had been judging solely by the size of its outer appearance. He thought he couldn't move it, and he could not—just because he had never tried

Road blocks exist in our consciousness only. Most of our problems are not as deep and destructive as they appear to be, if only we give them the right sort of attention, if we are honest with ourselves and do something about them earnestly.

Positive value of troubles

TROUBLES have a positive value. They act as stimulants and spurs to productive thinking and creative action. They have an undoubted educative value. They introduce a man to himself. They are followed by a reaction which produces a cheerful glow of spirit. They are a first rate tonic for the mind.

Success or failure in the realization of an aim or goal is determined by one's faith or lack of it. Faith supplies the stamina and the guts. It is the supreme quality one needs in the battlefield of life. It contains the dynamism to keep one going when the going is hard. It is the great secret of never being "defeated by the discouraging vicissitudes of the game."

An action-oriented positive attitude built on the rock of faith towards life's problems and difficulties can remove all obstacles, overcome all difficulties, and clear all hurdles in the path leading to our aims and goals. The presence of this faith makes all the difference between success and failure.

The tough minded man believes in success, not in defeat. Nothing can shake such a man's faith in himself, no wet blanket can dishearten him or break his spirit. When advised not to become a lawyer, since the profession was overcrowded, David Webster replied, "There is always room at the top." That is the sort of attitude that

pays rich dividends.

Life has its ups and downs

LIFE is a hurdle race, not a happy hunting ground nor a land of lotus-eaters. It has its ups and downs. These are the obstacles and difficulties to be surmounted. We should not be cowed down by difficulties or quail before obstacles. The first thing to do about an obstacle is to stand up to it, and not to grumble about it or to be weighed down by it but to forthrightly attack it. Don't go crawling through life on your hands and knees half-defeated. Stand up to your obstacles, and do something about them. You will discover that they have not half the strength you think they have. The first blow is half the battle.

Those who fight with courage, with the determination to win, taking obstacles and difficulties in their stride are ultimately victorious.

From apathy switch over to expectation

APATHY means "absence of feeling or emotion, indifference, passionless existence, indolence of mind, a withdrawal of feeling." It may begin as playing it cool, a studied practice of being unconcerned and unaffected. "Apathy operating like Freud's 'death instinct' is a gradual letting go of involvement until one finds that life itself has gone by." In his *An Outline of Psychoanalysis*, Freud observed, "We may suppose that the final aim of the destructive instinct is to reduce living things to an inorganic state. For this reason we may call it the death instinct." The utterly apathetic person says, "couldn't care less." His statement is the withdrawal of will, a suspension of commitment. Apathy leads to emptiness and makes one less able to survive. Prolonged apathy becomes sooner or later a character state, an attitude towards life.

Apathy is the slow poisoning of success or growth or progress. And too much of it is absolutely lethal to success or one's acceptable goal in life.

Apathy is the opposite of will

and love. It is harmful feeling of emptiness or vacuity: "The human being cannot live in a condition of emptiness for very long; if he is not growing towards something he does not merely stagnate; the pent-up potentialities turn into morbidity and despair and eventually into destructive activities."

The syndrome of apathy has these symptoms: lack of ambition; willingness to tolerate poverty, acceptance of whatever compensation life may offer without protest; mental and physical laziness; lack of initiative, imagination, enthusiasm and self-control, and victim behaviour of letting others pull your strings.

When the apathetic man gets up in the morning, he tells himself: "Here's another day. It's going to be just like the one before. I suppose we shall manage to get through it somehow." He yawns, he procrastinates; he can do it when he will and therefore seldom does it.

Perhaps the most effective antidote for apathy is the practice of courage. "Willingness to confront fear is courage." "Courage means flying in the face of criticism, relying on yourself, being willing to accept and learn from the consequences of all your choices. It means believing enough in yourself and in living your life as you choose....." It means daring, taking risks, pulling your own strings.

Look forward. Expect good, big things. To live is to move. Get a move on. Move heaven and earth to do what you want to do. "Life", said Disraeli, "is too short to belittle." Like life, success is a movement. It is a journey, not a destination. Eugene Halman, Chairman of Standard Oil, New Jersey, said, "I believe every sincere effort is a sort of turning point. I would question whether any sincere growing and developing person feels at any given point he has 'arrived'. You must keep moving on with confidence and you will get through all right."

Apathy paralyses the mind; hopeful expectation exhilarates it. A switch-over from apathy to bright-eyed expectation means a change

over from deadly gloom to vibrating aliveness, from stagnation to mobility, from failure to success, from 'I can't' to 'I can'. Optimistic expectation opens up new vistas. It makes things hum. It gives you a new positive self-image in league with brighter tomorrow.

While tackling your problems maintain a calm, confident, expectant attitude. As Dr N.V. Peale points out much of our failure complex is really concerned with the formidable situations but with the build-up of "little negatives" like 'I don't think I can do that' or 'I'll never get through this job.' Conversely, positives have a powerful effect on building up a hopeful approach to problems of life. To say, "It's going to be good" (or "Everything's turning out fine") is a sure way of evoking the law of positive effects.

Dr Ernest Jones tells us that Freud, father of psycho-analysis, had absolute confidence in ultimate success and happiness. "We shall get through all right", is the kind of motto that recurs. "I can see I need not be anxious about the final success of my efforts, it is purely a matter of how long it will take"

Take the bull by the horns

When faced by problems meet them fearlessly, and do not try to evade them. The bull must be taken by the horns.

Problems are to be dealt with. You cannot escape the fact. Trying to avoid a problem is an unrealistic attitude. Tackle your problems without delay. Putting off an easy problem makes it hard, and putting off a hard problem makes it impossible. Procrastination—deferring things, from day to day—wastes a lot of time, and usually ends in nothing being done at all. An old boat-man was asked "If a man fell this pier would he be drowned?" "No" he said, "It's not falling into water that drowns a man; it's staying there."

Each one of us has to work out his own destiny. In the ultimate analysis you and you alone can supply the vital energy and determination that will solve your problems and lift you out of the net and into the race.

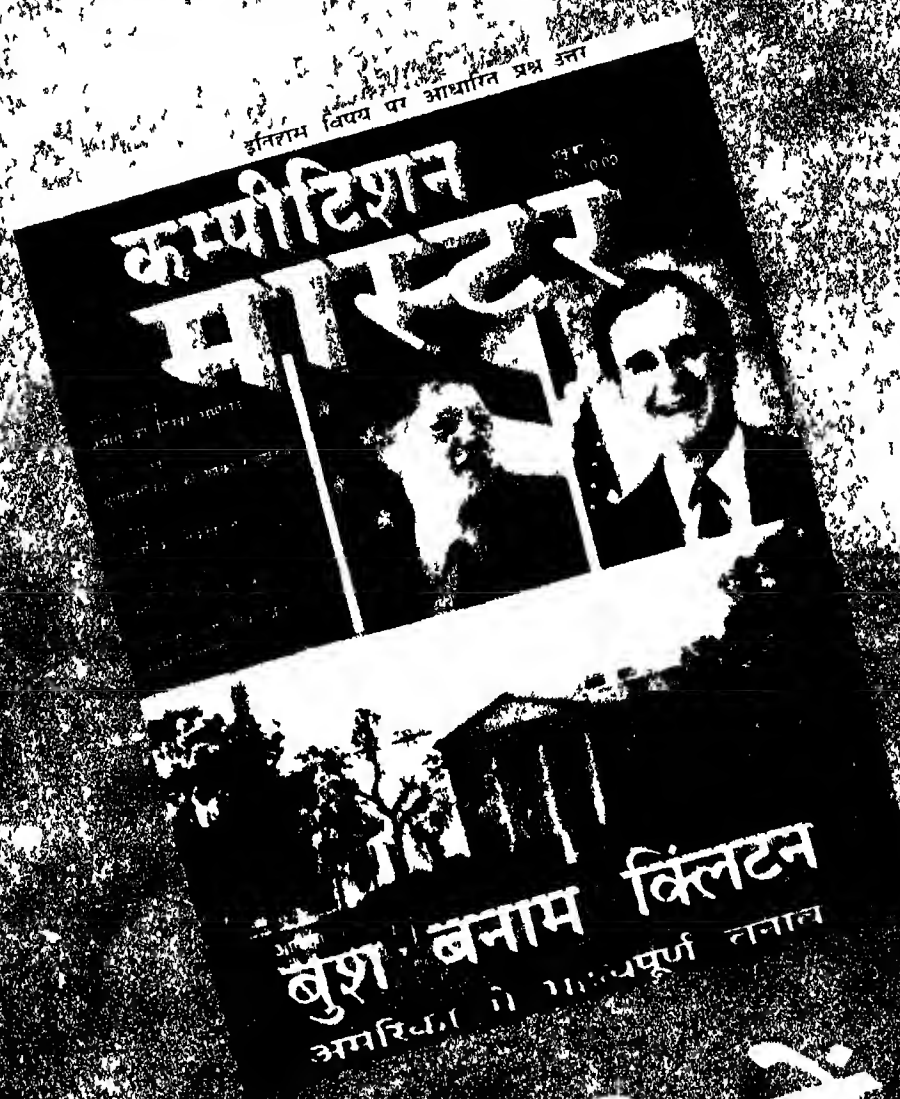
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